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Rape cases avoid court

Rosemary Westwood

Two alleged rapes in UVic residence buildings were investigated by Saanich police in the 2007-08 school year, but neither investigation resulted in charges.

In both cases, neither complainant — the term for an alleged victim — wished to pursue sexual assault charges. Under the Criminal Code of Canada, sexual assault includes crimes ranging from any unwanted, non-consensual sexual touching to rape.

The first incident is alleged to have occurred in the early hours of Oct. 28, 2007 during a Halloween party in residence. The alleged victim was visiting from the Lower Mainland. She was left alone in the company of a male residence student she'd just met, and was later found alone, unconscious and foaming at the mouth, according to police. The original call for help was to an ambulance. Later, the allegation became one of sexual assault.

Police filed a concluding report which stated there was not enough evidence to recommend charges. However, police are still filing further reports dealing with lab results on this case.

In an e-mail dated Nov. 16 and obtained by the Martlet through a Freedom of Information request, university administrators drafted a letter in response to the alleged rape. Administration emphasized UVic's commitment to safety and the low number of reported incidents at UVic. The name of the intended recipient of the letter was blacked out to protect privacy.

The second allegation of rape occurred in the early months of 2008. According to police, both the alleged victim and suspect were residence students.

"Both the victim and subject of complaint were heavily intoxicated," said Saanich police spokesperson Sgt. John Price. He said memory recall was poor for both involved and the issue of consent played a major role in the investigation.

He said police did not find enough evidence to "substantiate the allegation of sexual assault and the victim is not interested in pursuing it." That neither case resulted in enough evidence to substantiate charges is not unusual for rape cases.

Price said alcohol can often be a factor in sexual assault cases, which creates a situation where it's difficult to gather evidence.

"And when you have a person, typically a man, taking advantage of those situations and they're multiple offending, then that person's behaviour never gets checked," he said.

According to estimates from Statistics Canada, only eight per cent of sexual assaults get reported.

See *Burden of evidence*, p. 2

SOCCER BLUES

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Vikes forward Moira Hood shields the ball from the a Vancouver Whitecaps development team player during the Keg Spring Cup championship game on March 30. The Vikes lost 2-0, ending their season.

Students race for fuel efficiency

Scott Daly

A fuel cell powered car built by a team of UVic engineering students is set to compete in the second annual Shell Eco-marathon Americas that runs from April 10-13.

The race, held at the California Speedway in Fontana, Calif., judges cars on fuel efficiency rather than speed while completing a 17.7 kilometre course at an average speed of 24 kilometres per hour. The UVic car, dubbed H2Drive, is the culmination of over a year of work and is expected to have a fuel efficiency 10 times better than the most efficient conventional cars. Most modern cars have fuel economies ranging between 12 and 17 kilometres per litre.

H2Drive will be driven by doctoral candidate Aimy Bazylak, the smallest member of the 11-person design team.

"I'm really excited," said Bazylak. "It will be my first time driving a fuel cell powered car, and it will be a unique opportunity to be on the road with so many other fuel cell powered cars."

H2Drive will be competing against 37 other entries from high schools and universities across the United States, Canada and Mexico. The University of Laval and UBC are the only other Canadian entries. The most fuel-efficient car receives $10,000, while three category-specific prizes of $1,000 each for the best performing car powered by a fuel cell, combustion engine and solar power.

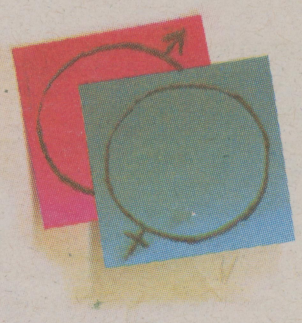
Last year's winner was California Polytechnic State University, whose combustion engine vehicle managed to have a fuel economy of 809 kilometres per litre. The fuel cell powering the three-wheeled, pill-shaped vehicle from UVic works by generating electricity through an electro-chemical reaction from hydrogen stored in on-board tanks and oxygen from the air.

UVic's fuel cell car cost about $20,000 to build and transport to the competition site, with much of the funding coming from the faculty of engineering, the BC Hydrogen Highway project and the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

Bazylak said the team's goal isn't necessarily to win but rather to gain experience, promote more sustainable technologies and encourage future students become involved.

"It is our hope that by building this, it will engage the public in learning about sustainable energy and inspire other students to participate," she said.

TOP STORIES



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Burden of evidence necessary: police

"Most often the victim and suspect are known to each other," added Price. "Because you have that 'known' element, that has an impact on a victim's willingness to participate in the process."

It's a significant factor: UVic's Anti-Violence Project estimates 80 per cent of sexual assault cases involve people that know each other.

Police typically investigate a sexual assault up to the point where they ask the complainant if they are prepared to provide a statement to support the criminal charge.

"If they can't, we can't forward to Crown counsel for charge approval," said Price.

Domestic violence is the only crime against a person that doesn't require police to get a victim statement to investigate and recommend charges.

Price said that people sometimes report crimes just so there's a police record of it. For sexual assault investigations, this can prove helpful to police. A nationwide police database keeps track of all subjects of complaints and alleged suspects which police use when investigating sexual assaults. Police can upload the scenario, a description of the suspect and circumstances, as well as the type of vehicle the suspect may have used.

That information can be checked to find the history of a suspect, even if that person moves around the country. Even if a charge isn't substantiated, police files are never purged and the person will remain on file as having been a subject of complaint.

Any charge recommended by the police to Crown counsel needs to meet the charge approval standard. Crown prosecutor Catherine Murray said that means prosecutors must be satisfied there's a substantial likelihood of conviction in order to approve charges recommended by the police.

Lack of physical evidence to substantiate a claim of sexual assault can make a case difficult to prove in court. The very nature of the crime means that it's very rarely witnessed, said Murray. And that makes the issue of consent contentious and difficult to prove.

"It usually comes down to a he-said she-said," Murray notes.

She said date and acquaintance rape charges, overwhelmingly the most common cases of rape, are particularly hard to prove.

"But all of those considerations are taken into account when we're considering charge approval," Murray said.

"I've gone ahead with cases between a husband and wife where intercourse has been forced and oral sex has been forced and the accused has been found guilty," she said, noting that the likelihood of conviction is dependent on the individual case.

Price and Murray both agreed that the burden of proof is there for a good reason.

"It's the foundation of the criminal justice system — you're innocent until proven guilty," said Price.

Murray acknowledged that for some complainants, it seems like an uphill battle.

"What you have to think about is what if somebody in your family or somebody you really care about was alleged to have committed an offence," said Murray. "You would want this kind of system in place where the accuser's testimony is able to be tested in court."

She said physical evidence is the best way to get corroboration in the event of a sexual assault.

"My advice would be call the police," Murray said. "Don't shower. Don't change. Go to the hospital."

Both stressed the benefits of the myriad of support networks designed to support victims of rape. They include the Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, UVic's Anti-Violence Project, the NEED Crisis Line and specially trained nurses at hospitals.

"We all work together as a team," said Murray. "[The victims] are absolutely not alone. It's certainly not hopeless and it's serious."

SHARING THE PB AND J

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Laren Zbarsky (left) and Laura Gordon took part in the Jewish Students Association's second annual Peanut Butter and Jam-athon April 1 outside the SUB to make 250 sandwiches for hungry people in Victoria.

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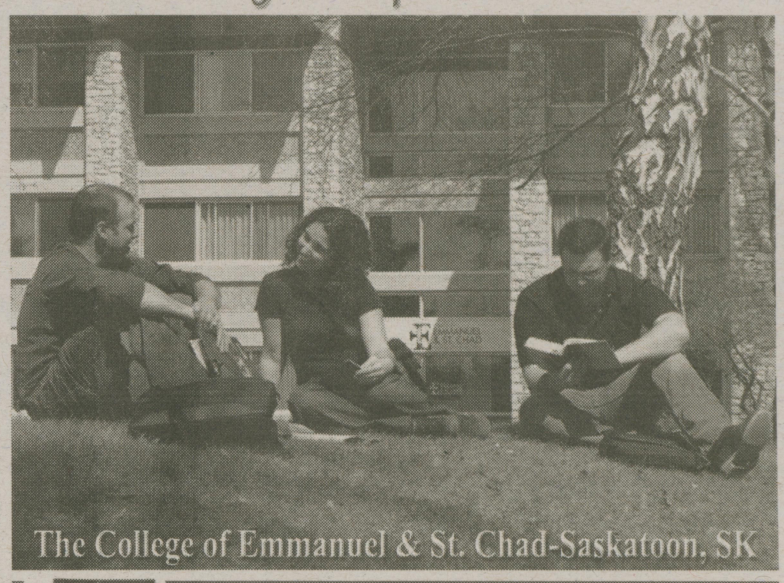

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Energy harnessed from waves

UVic leads way in technology to turn ocean coastlines into viable sources of renewable, sustainable energy

Charlotte Barrow

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

A surfer uses waves to get a thrill near Jordan River. UVic researchers see more than a good time in waves — they see new sources of energy.

UVic professors and students are developing technologies to harness the energy contained in ocean waves.

Mechanical engineering professors Bradley Buckham and Peter Wild have been working for the past three years on designing a "surface point receptor." The receptor harnesses energy from a particular point on the ocean's surface. It uses two attached, floating devices which move up and down opposite to each other. The difference in the movement generates energy.

The researchers, helped by three graduate and three undergraduate students, deployed a wave buoy three months ago to float up and down off the coast of Tofino. The buoy records the height and frequency of waves, allowing researchers to adjust the technology to the local conditions.

"This is most of our work right now," said Buckham. "Given a certain wave regime, how do we adjust the base design to be optimal?"

The UVic researchers, in partnership with private company SyncWave Energy Inc., plan to release their model for commercial use as early as 2010. While there are a number of different wave energy technologies being developed around the world, SyncWaveEnergy president and chief executive officer Nigel Protter said his company's model is special.

"Ours is unique," he said. "It has a phase lag, which means it's out of phase with the wave. The wave moves ahead of our response [to it]. Others are, technically speaking, wave followers, which treat each wave as a unique event. They have a very light float that tracks the wave's surface."

Another form of ocean energy technology is being developed by engineering professor Afzal Suleman and graduate student Julio Rodriguez. Unlike the surface receptor, their model sits on the ocean floor and harnesses energy from air pressure and movement created by waves.

"We hope to power up a small island or village," Suleman said, adding that wave energy is "simple, renewable and non-polluting." He said his model has no visual presence from land and could be used as reefs for marine life.

Protter agreed there are many pros to ocean wave energy, such as the non-intrusive "passive device" his company uses to harness the energy.

"It's no more harmful than a sailboat at anchor," he said. "It is likely one of the lowest-impact energy sources ever developed. As far as I'm concerned, there are no cons," he said.

But not everyone is so sure. "There are things that can go wrong," said Buckham.

For example, current costs could be prohibitive.

"At some point you've got to require some investment," said Buckham. The team has already received $50,000 in industry support, but a trial buoy alone can cost between $6,000 and $10,000 per year. However, it would likely be a good investment over the long term, according to Protter.

"There's a high potential to deliver electricity at a cost well below 10 cents per kilowatt," said Protter. "That would be acceptable in today's energy economy, let alone tomorrow's."

Another difficulty is the transport of the energy flow. Because it relies on cables, at this point it may not be feasible to channel the energy beyond coastal communities.

Vancouver Island, therefore, could be a perfect candidate. One graduate student calculated that deploying surface point receptors along 65 per cent of the Island's shoreline would supply all of our energy needs. The receptors are relatively small and impacts to the marine environment are minimal compared to other energy sources.

But Buckham raised concerns about whale navigation around the cables and the channels that need to be dug in the ocean floor to bury cables.

Suleman believes his project avoids these problems.

He said his model uses cheaper, plastic materials and has no need for ocean surface area or descending cables.

"There's a lot of benefit to a more sustainable, reliable energy portfolio," Buckham said. " It's like that old saying: when you put all your eggs in one basket, you're bound for trouble."

APOLOGY

The Martlet apologizes for the March 6 article "Violence at root of Qur'an." The article took some quotes from the Qur'an out of context and violated the newspaper's statement of purpose, which outlines a mission of positive social change.

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NEWS BRIEF

Panel to address increasing population density in Saanich

A public panel session will investigate ways to deal with increasing population density in Saanich on April 9 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Michèle Pujol Room in the SUB.

The growing need for more housing has prompted Saanich to look for ways to increase density in the municipality.

Featuring six panelists and organized by Networking for a Common Future in Sustainability (NetCFS) and Saanichrebuild Civic Group, the panel will address issues surrounding increased population density.

Topics will include student tenant needs, building comfortable and safe communities and how residents see their neighbourhoods in 20 years.

"The session can actually be a source of inspiration for other municipalities in Greater Victoria and beyond," said NetCFS president Yves Bajard.

- Rosemary Westwood

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

April 9, 1998 — UVic psychology professor Janet Bavelas concluded that "the terminology used to describe sexual assaults often re-victimizes survivors." Bavelas and her research team examined the language used by judges in sexual assault trials over a five-year period. They found that in two-thirds of the cases, judges used language that "eroticized" the attacks and "softened" the violence in the act.

"I don't think these crimes have anything to do with sex. They have to do with power. One example of that power is the power to create a version of the events [through using softer language]," Bavelas said in the article.

April 6, 1989 — UVic announced they would be developing a native studies program for the fall of 1990. Ken Coates, a UVic history professor, said the problem with starting such a program is that "they have a tendency to treat native people as objects." The goal of the program would be to examine "native attitudes toward environment, pollution, politics, [and] global issues, showing that natives have a much broader perspective on the world outside their own society." There were also plans to develop an Aboriginal government program and to increase classes on Aboriginal issues in the law faculty.

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Tenant democracy flourishes elsewhere

University of Alberta and Carleton University residence students take governance into their own hands

Tim Lindsay

For students leaving the family nest for the first time, living in university residences may seem almost utopian. You get a bed, a roof, new friends, cafeteria food — all tucked cozily within the quaint Ring-Roadian bubble of UVic.

But UVic residences are no utopia for a simple reason: a lack of tenant democracy.

More than 2,500 students live in UVic's on-campus residences. Collectively these tenants pay the university $20 million per year for rent and cafeteria food. Yet tenants have no power to determine the rules that govern their lives and the services they receive. Like many homes for the elderly, tenants at UVic have scant opportunity to control their own destiny.

While tenant democracy may not be the norm at most campuses across Canada, there are some spirited examples.

Peter Ochs is president of the University of Alberta Residence Halls Association, an umbrella group for the elected representatives from seven large residence buildings. This year the group has been fighting a decision by the university to increase rental rates. They are also participating on a university committee reviewing the community standards policy that governs residence behavior.

"Having elected representation engages all students in active citizenship and gives them a voice in their community," Ochs said.

In February, the Residence Halls Association battled a move by the housing administration to change the selection process for residence leader positions from tenant elections to housing administration appointments. The administration sent the resident association a letter informing them of the decision.

"And this was with no consultation whatsoever, despite our efforts to increase consultation in every facet of university governance," said Ochs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE OTTO/THE GATEWAY

Hundreds of residence students turned out at the University of Alberta to protest the decision to appoint, rather than elect, residence leaders.

"So all students came out in protest of that while we engaged in talks with the university trying to make them stay their decision, until they at least engaged us in talks."

As a result of these protests, the university stayed its original decision and are now in ongoing talks with the Residence Halls Association, said Ochs.

"You will often get tension between the administration and the students," said Ochs. "Elected representatives can actually help to alleviate that."

The Residence Halls Association operates on a $5 fee from each resident, which generates about $20,000 to cover executive honorariums, office supplies and other necessities.

Carleton University is another Canadian campus where residents form their own government called the Rideau River Residents' Association. The group's president, Danylo Korbabicz, said he has been active this year dealing with resident concerns about disruptive noise caused by the construction of a new residence building.

"We were instrumental in making sure everyone in the building next to the construction was compensated. They originally weren't compensated but now everyone in the building gets $100 per month from the university as a result of our work," said Korbabicz.

The Rideau River Residents' Association has also been pressuring the university to ensure that asbestos in some of the older residence buildings is not creating a health risk for students.

"You talk about the mold there at UVic. Our concern was that when people drink and get rowdy and things hit the wall, the last thing you want to know is that there is asbestos in your air," said Korbabicz.

The group includes 2,600 student tenants who pay a $30 membership fee per semester, which contributes to an annual budget of about $1.4 million. Roughly half their revenue comes from a 24-hour convenience store they own and operate in residence, said Korbabicz.

Carleton University employs resident advisers (RAs) on each of 44 floors. Additionally, tenants elect three paid executives to manage the Residents' Association and someone from each floor to sit on the association's council. Since RAs live in residence, they are also members of the Residents' Association.

"We won't typically represent RAs," said Korbabicz. "But if there's something that's fairly sensitive that they don't necessarily want to bring up with their employer, then we will."

The Residents' Association also partially funds a residence newspaper called the Resin. The paper is distributed to every floor on campus, said Scott Cressman, managing editor of the Resin.

"We cover issues that affect anyone in the residence community — things like issues with housing, problems that might arise in any of the buildings, student politics, special events like performances that happen specifically for residents," said Cressman.

The Resin gets funding from the Residents' Association but is editorially independent from them and is completely independent of the housing administration.

"The housing administration doesn't have any input into what goes into the paper or what stories we do," said Cressman.

Back at UVic, RAs are appointed by the housing administration and prohibited from talking with campus media. Residents don't seem very concerned with establishing democratic residence associations like those at the University of Alberta and Carleton University.

"We have tried over the years to have residents' councils and there just hasn't been uptake in it," said Lisa Robinson, UVic's manager of residence life affairs. "For some reason students haven't really grasped onto it."

Earlier this year some discontented residents expressed concern about reduced wages community leaders, who will replace RAs next year, will get — $1,000 per semester. To hire 60 community leaders as planned, it will cost the housing administration $60,000 from their budget.

Put another way, that's $25 per resident.

Thank you.

WE wish to thank all of the people, unions, organizations and businesses who have shown us goodwill and support during our lengthy lockout – from contributions of money to our strike fund, to donations of food, discounts, time and talent. Although too many to mention here, your support and solidarity is nonetheless greatly appreciated. A big thank you to the all the Library supporters who came to town hall meetings and rallies, wrote letters and emails, spoke to local politicians, and even started a grassroots blog! Thanks also to those elected leaders who stood up for pay equity and Victoria's libraries.

A message from the women and men who provide library service in the Greater Victoria area – CUPE 410

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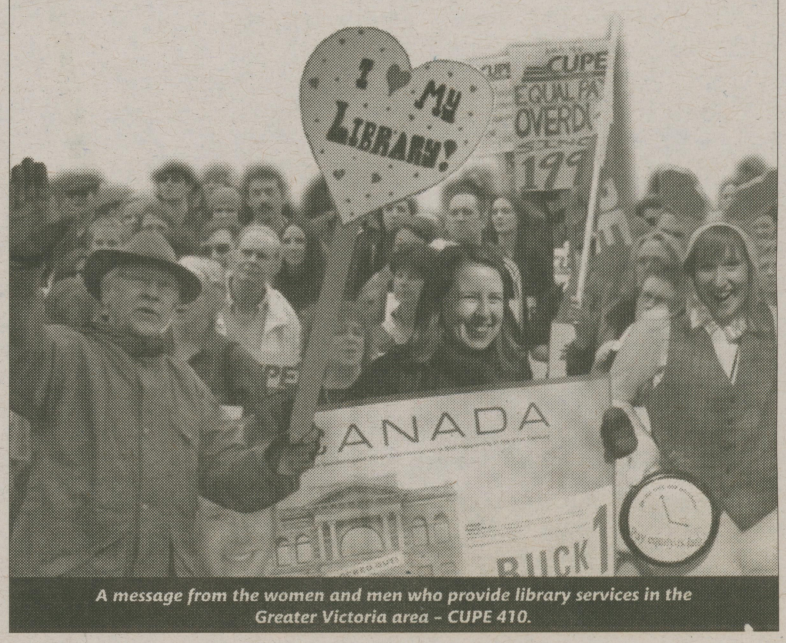

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Prof educating Harper with weekly readings

UVic researcher launches website and will send Prime Minister 52 reports on drug addiction this year

David Karp

UVic professor Susan Boyd is hoping to capture the attention of Prime Minister Stephen Harper by launching a website, www.educatingharper.com.

Boyd, a drug policy researcher, launched the website on Feb. 1. The website is about drug policy and contains research that Boyd is sending to Harper — one document per week.

"I am curious about what Stephen Harper reads. That's in essence part of the reason I decided to do the website and send him an article every week," said Boyd, who is in Vancouver on sabbatical, doing research. "I don't think his advisers are bringing him the wonderful array of research and articles that have been written about these issues."

The Conservative party's drug strategy is misguided, Boyd said. She believes harm reduction, rather than stiffer penalties for drug traffickers, is the way to go.

"It's really difficult to keep harm reduction programs running when prohibition is the national drug policy," she said. "In fact, much of the harms that we associate with illegal drug use are actually caused by, or linked to, prohibition.

"[Take] the drug trade, for instance. Violence associated with the drug trade, high black market prices, adulterated prices, drug overdoes — all of those things are related to drug prohibition."

Boyd said harm reduction can take a variety of approaches, including drug education, safe injection programs and detox clinics.

"Problematic drug use is really a symptom of other issues," she said.

More than 78 per cent of federal drug funding goes toward criminal justice initiatives, while only three per cent was allocate to harm reduction, Boyd said, adding that the Conservative government has since made cuts to harm reduction funding.

"It's interesting to me that this tiny little amount could be so controversial to this government."

Boyd got the idea for her campaign from Life of Pi author Yann Martel, who has been sending Harper a book every two weeks to draw attention to the lack of funding for Canadian arts and culture.

"I was sitting here one evening, and I think it was after I read something about the new crime bill that was being proposed, and I went to the computer and thought I'll write a letter of protest," she said. "And then I thought, why add to my thick file of letters that outline my discontent with drug policy?"

The website includes the 52 documents that Boyd is sending Harper. More than 20 articles are from peer-reviewed journals. Boyd said the research is clear about the effectiveness of harm reduction.

"Certainly, [the Conservatives] are not basing their decisions on the research that's available, and that's a little bit frightening for Canadians themselves and researchers in the field, because when you're basing policy out of ideology, it's not necessarily for the common good," Boyd said. "I don't see any evidence that harsher laws or continuing prohibition makes society safer or healthier."

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

UVic drug policy researcher Susan Boyd is sending Stephen Harper a research report each week to raise his awareness of drug issues.

So far, there's been no word back from the Prime Minister or health minister Tony Clement, whom she also sent letters to.

"I expect I might get a form letter, because in the past when I've written — not just Stephen Harper but other prime ministers — about drug policy issues that have come up, I've occasionally received a form letter," said Boyd.

However, she's optimistic that the Prime Minister will read the material she sends him, even if he doesn't write back.

If he doesn't, Boyd said the project won't be for nothing.

"If it turns out that he doesn't [read the material I send him], I feel that it has a usefulness for other concerned people who live in Canada who want to learn about harm reduction and drug policy," Boyd said.

Visit Boyd's website, www.educatingharper.com, for descriptions of each week's readings that she sends to Harper, and a link to the Prime Minister's e-mail, as well as a form letter concerned citizens can send him.

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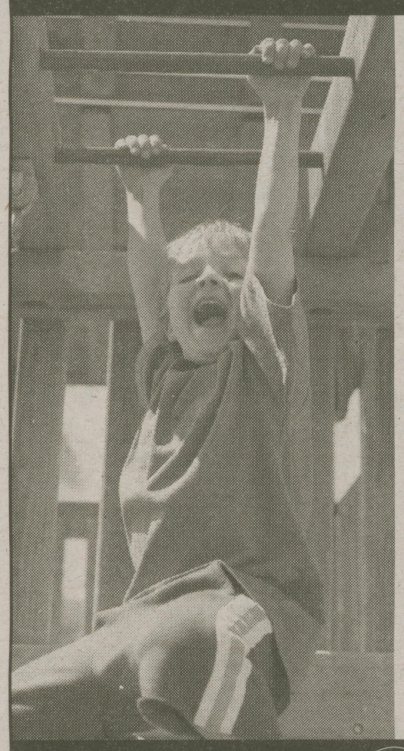

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Library lockout nears end

Strike action, public outcry helped library staff fight for pay equity

Steve Carey

Little Red Riding Hood, Pippi Longstocking and Superman were at the downtown library March 29 to fight for pay equity for library workers. It, and the union's other strike actions, appears to have worked — a tentative agreement with the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association (GVLRA) could re-open the libraries as early as next week.

The 250 library workers, members of CUPE Local 410, have been locked out for over 40 days, and without a contract for over a year. The agreement gives workers pay equity with other municipal workers' wages in the region, but not with City of Victoria workers. It will also create nine regular positions for pages — one for each branch.

At the wrap party for the Overdue Freedom to Read Week, over 70 people showed up to support the workers. This year's celebration was overdue — the lockout happened on Feb. 17, the week of Freedom to Read Week, delaying the event.

Dressed as children's storybook characters, over a dozen workers put on a performance about pay equity, the lockout, and the GVLRA.

Jennifer Rowen, a children's librarian, was dressed as Pippi Longstocking, hair sticking straight out from the sides of her head and a sign on her back that read "Pippi wants pay equity."

"I think our pay equity fight is important. We've been waiting a long time — since 1992," she said. "It's appalling that in 2008 in Canada women aren't paid equally for work of equal value."

Pay equity is the right for equal pay for equal work, regarless of gender. Library staff have said they are paid 20 to 30 per cent less than city staff for the same work.

Jenny Griffin, a circulation clerk, was dressed as Little Red Riding Hood. "A lot of people didn't even know we were on strike before we were locked out," said Griffin. "We've been on strike since Sept. 7 last year, and we've been without a contract since December 2006."

Griffin believes that the public is upset because no local media covered a 1,000-person rally on International Women's Day in support of the library workers.

Olivia Anderson is the branch manager of the Bruce Hutchison and the Central Saanich libraries, and correspondence secretary for the strike committee.

"Back in 1992, along with other municipal workers, we fought and were given pay equity [in a letter]," said Anderson. "Because we are a female-dominated workplace we had to look for an external comparator — because we are municipal workers, we were compared against the City of Victoria."

The GVLRA bargaining committee wanted to take that pay equity letter out of the contract. The workers went on strike instead.

In September, the union started reducing and cutting off some library services, including Internet access, story times, and adult programs. That got them nowhere.

Then they started trading canned goods in exchange for fines — the Food for Fines program.

"That really did get management's attention. They felt that they were losing a lot of money this way — even though a library is not a business, and does not run on fines. That was when they decided to lock us out."

A Librarians' wage tops out at $33.66 an hour. Pages earn the least at $9.81 an hour. Circulation clerks are in the middle. Anderson said pages are the most disadvantaged by the low wages.

"A page will always be an auxiliary. It doesn't matter if they work five days a week for 15 years, they will always only be an auxiliary, will never get benefits, will never move into a regular position, and they don't make more than $10 [an hour]," said Anderson.

She pointed out that many of the pages are making more in strike pay — $250 a week — than they do normally. The pages shelve and sort items, empty the chutes, do clerical tasks and clean the library.

According to CUPE Local 410's website, the lockout has resulted in over $930,000 in unpaid salaries and benefits and over $4.5 million in lost services to the public. All the workers interviewed were eager to get back to work, and to check out new books.

"I think when we do go back to work we're going to be closer and be tighter with our co-workers. It hasn't broken us," said Anderson.

- with files from Johanna Henderson

NATIONAL NEWS

Most students study for a good job

Joanna Bhaskaran
THE MANITOBAN

WINNIPEG (CUP) — A new study found that students choose courses and degrees based on long-term job prospects rather than how much fun they think it will be.

The study, titled "Do Students Choose Courses for Love or Money?" was published by the Education Guardian, a U.K.-based magazine. It stated that for many students, a good job and long-term career plans are the major motivating factors for choosing university courses and degrees.

Of the 130,000 students polled in the study, 21.6 per cent said that getting a good job was their top reason for choosing what to study. Only 16.9 per cent said they were studying because of interest. Fifty-five per cent of students had a clear idea of what kind of job they wanted after graduation, whereas eight per cent indicated having no clear idea.

Ravneet Johar, a second-year student in the Asper School of Business said "I was in med school in India for two years. But when I came here, the process to get into med school was too long and complicated. So I decided to transit into business."

Some students such as Christian Sikoran, a first-year hoping to move into the faculty of Pharmacy, are genuinely passionate about the subject matter of their classes.

"I chose my courses because I am interested in them and they are prerequisites for entry into the faculty," Sikoran said.

An upcoming study will follow students until 2011 to determine how career decisions are made.

GSS
Graduate Students' Society
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

All registered grad students are invited to participate in a referendum on the cost and the benefits of the mandatory GSS extended health and dental plans. Voting will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, both in person and via webvote. Please visit gss.uvic.ca for more information.

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EDITORIAL

Sexual assault an urgent problem

It is nauseating to think about sexual assault.

It is disturbing to think that it happens to roughly 300,000 Canadian women per year. And it is reprehensible that less than one per cent of those sexual assaults result in jail time for the perpetrator. It's time Canadian society addressed this problem.

In 2006, Statistics Canada released a report called Measuring Violence Against Women, where they took an in-depth look at the issue. University students should pay particular attention — women under 25 experience higher rates of violence than any other demographic.

According to Statistics Canada's General Social Survey, only eight per cent of victims report an assualt to police. Still, there were 23,534 instances of sexual assault reported to police in Canada in 2004. For those of you who are doing the math, that means there were almost 300,000 incidents in Canada that year.

Even if a victim is brave enough to contact police, only 40 per cent of reports result in criminal charges — that lowers the 23,534 reported incidents to roughly 9,400. And the courts don't hand out convictions to charged people very freely; less than 40 per cent of sexual assault trials result in a conviction. That's roughly 3,800 victims who see their perpetrator convicted. But they can't count on the assailant going to jail because 37 per cent of those convictions don't result in jail time.

So, of 300,000 estimated sexual assaults each year in Canada, roughly 2,400 (or 0.8 per cent) result in prison time.

It could be that the penalties aren't harsh enough. Conditional sentences — served in the community rather than in jail — are more common for perpetrators of sexual assault than other violent crimes.

It could be that victims don't see the police as an option. Reports of sexual assault to the police have been steadily declining since 1993 — even though the data indicates that the rate of sexual assaults has been consistent since 1999. It appears women are getting help from other sources, with an estimated 47 per cent of female sexual assault victims accessing a social service for help.

It could be that the burden of proof is too high. After all, how many sexual assaults have a witness?

It could be a problem with alcohol. There isn't a breathalyzer test that can revoke your licence to bed.

But the real issue is that sexual assault dehumanizes the victim. The crime would be unconscionable if the perpetrator saw their victim as a living, breathing person.

That's why we need to think long and hard about how we view each other. Even if we understand that no means no, it's a dangerous line to toe if we are only thinking about how to get laid and not about the personality, feelings and intellect that go along with the person.

We need to remember that every young woman is someone's daughter, someone's sister, someone important. If we can understand to respect one another, then there is hope that sexual assaults can decline.

If we stop condoning the objectification of men and women, then perhaps we won't have to deal with as many sexual assaults. It'd be about time.

Editorial topics and stances are decided on by staff at our editorial meetings. Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

THE LONG-AWAITED OPENING OF THE BIBLIO CAFÉ.

JENNIFER ZHOU AND NATHAN LOWTHER GRAPHIC

Wisdom and peace at root of Qur'an

Omar Mohamed and Youcef Ibrahim
MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION

In 610 CE, in the barren land of Arabia, a man known among his people for honesty and trustworthiness received from the angel Gabriel the beginnings of God's final message to humankind.

The message confirmed and completed that which had been preached by past prophets (Peace be Upon Them), such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. For the next 23 years, this man named Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) continued to receive revelations until God's message was completed in what is called the Qur'an, a book which serves as the source of the Islamic faith.

The Qur'an's principal message is unambiguous: it is a call to humankind to turn to God, the source of all being and the giver of life, and to worship Him with a pure heart. He is unique and without partner; He was not born and did not give birth; He is all-compassionate and merciful, almighty and just, and the only one we need for guidance and help.

Anything that we allow to come between ourselves and our Creator — even our own egos — is a falsehood that leads to our own detriment. Wealth, fame and all the pleasures of this world will someday fade, and we will not be able to take them with us when we die. Only our faith and good deeds will remain, to light our graves and be a beacon for us on the Day of Judgement.

Although no translation of the Qur'an can faithfully capture its Arabic meaning, the following excerpt illustrates these points beautifully:

"Recite to them the story of Abraham, When he asked his father and his people, 'What do you worship?' 'We worship idols,' they replied, 'and we are ever devoted to them.' He said, 'Do they hear you when you cry? Or do they benefit or harm you in any way?' They said, 'No, but this is what we found our forefathers doing.' He said, 'Do you see, then, what you and your forefathers have been worshipping? Truly, they are all my enemies, except the Lord of the Worlds, Who created me, and Who guides me, And Who feeds me and gives me to drink, And when I am ill, He heals me, And Who will cause me to die, and give me life again; And Who, I ardently hope, will forgive me my sins on the Day of Judgement. O Lord, grant me wisdom, and unite me with the righteous, And grant that I may be remembered well in future generations, And make me one of the inheritors of the Garden of Delight; And forgive my father, for he is one of those who is lost; And do not disgrace me on the Day when all will be resurrected, The Day that wealth and children will not avail anyone, Except one who brings to God a clean heart.'" (The Qur'an, 26:69–89)

In order to cultivate one's relationship with God, the Qur'an prescribes rules of social conduct that generate harmony and good relations between individuals. It admonishes humans to comport themselves in an upright manner and treat others — particularly parents, spouses, family and neighbours — with kindness and respect. It specifies the need to help those who are weaker in society, such as the poor and orphans. Though it views the social role of men and women as different, it conceives of men and women as equals and partners in a life that aims at serving God: "Whoever works righteousness, man or woman, and has Faith, verily to him or her we will give a new life, and life that is good and pure, and we will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions" (16:97).

The Qur'an provides guidelines for international laws and treaties between polities. It does not proscribe war between states but promotes peace: "Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, but do not transgress limits; for God does not love transgressors" (2:190). It adds in another verse: "But if they incline towards peace, do also incline towards peace, and trust in God: for He is the One that Heareth and Knoweth" (8:61). This is an example that shows that without referring to all of verses on a certain topic and without understanding their historical and textual background, it is possible to make faulty inferences about what the Qur'an says.

Remarkably, the Qur'an accurately describes natural phenomena that science has only recently discovered. Some of the Qur'an's verses accurately describe embryonic development during the first 40 days of life; an explanation that the roots of mountains are like pegs which help to anchor and stabilize the Earth's crust; that a natural barrier exists wherever two seas meet (each maintains its own salinity, temperature and density); that waves occur in layers in the depths of the ocean; and that the heavens emerged from "smoke" — gases and dust that characterize nebulae as stars are forming.

Scientists have found its descriptions to be inexplicably valid for a book from the seventh century. The conflict between faith and reason has been notably absent in Islam; the Qur'an repeatedly encourages people to reflect and use their intelligence, and most Muslim scientists and inventors have also been pious believers.

Nonetheless, the Qur'an was not meant to be a scientific book for Muslims. It serves to penetrate the deepest recesses of our souls. For centuries, its words have been lovingly recited, memorized, and implemented by Muslims of every nationality. The faithful are inspired, consoled and often moved to tears by its content, eloquence and poetic imagery. It connects us with the truth of the divine and impels us to perfect our conduct and manners.

The Muslim Student Association, out of our strong belief in intellectual engagement, is inviting everyone to read the Qur'an for yourself, and not to let it be read to you. E-mail us at msa-mail@uvicmsa.org, and we will gladly send you a free copy of the translation of the Qur'an. We can also offer a free audio CD that narrates the beautiful story of the Prophet Joseph (Peace be Upon Him) as depicted in Qur'an.

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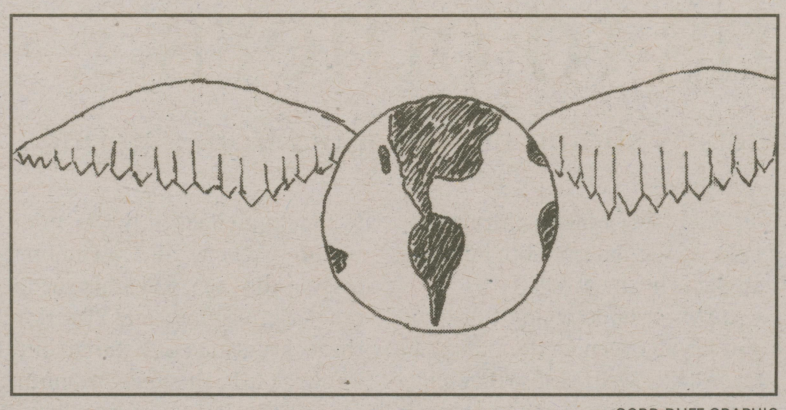
Multiculturalism isn't enough

Jerry Xie



GORD DUFF GRAPHIC

I decided to scribble down my sporadic musings on the occasion of March 21, the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

As resilient as it is, the politics of liberal multiculturalism is received with much ignorance, its name being a buzzword rather than adequately understood. The effort to diffuse multiculturalism and racial, ethnic and cultural minority rights is received with skepticism, and even claims of reverse racism, throughout our institutions and social strata.

Multiculturalism, despite its popularity and ubiquity, is not fully embraced. Many people only accept multiculturalism if it merely exists symbolically — as legal recognition, cultural celebrations, and artistic decorations and emblems (the most recent being the logo for the 2010 Winter Olympics). Indeed, potlucks, dances and gatherings do not peel our sensitive historical scars as history lessons and commemorations do. We'd rather forget the history of racism and live in ignorant coexistence with other groups.

It's a comforting idea — hence the silencing of multicultural advocates, including those seemingly separate from politics. They are turned down by those in power, who consider their advocacy destabilizing, and sometimes defacing. "We appreciate your opinions. You are heard." And then, after they leave, business as usual.

I once approached a politician on equity in the province's school curriculum. Her reply was less than inspiring: "Unfortunately, I would have to disagree with you. We're the most multicultural province in Canada, and we should all be proud of that."

It is a shame when democratic discussions are disempowered. The silencing reflects the attitudes from the top of the structure, despite the "formal recognition" of diversity and equity. And as long as power and privilege remain, they will not likely re-examine these attitudes, fearing the institutional structure would be subverted.

It is not surprising, then, why many tolerate multiculturalism as the politics of recognition, but are reluctant to extend it to become that of affirmation and redistribution. Merely acknowledging minorities as "equal participants" does no real good, so long as power and privilege are preserved. "Congratulations, you're included in our collective narratives. Let's talk about power and resources some other day."

The result is the social and economic immobilization of minorities, despite the official status of multiculturalism. As subtle as they are, they have detrimental effects on everyone by creating a false image of creativity and harmony, generating satisfaction and thus disqualifying affirmative and transformative action much needed in our communities.

As norms are reproduced, substantial change is delayed. Speaking the language of universal rights ignores the diversity of minority groups and the complexity of their predicaments. It violates the spirit of liberal multiculturalism.

Multiculturalism is meaningless without institutional change to alleviate the iniquities suffered by minority groups. Guaranteeing capacity for all does not lead to destabilization, but rather enables creative discussions in which all can freely participate. While giving ourselves pats on the backs, we still have a long way to go.

Jerry Xie is a 16-year-old multiculturalism activist, and a member of the City of Victoria Youth Council.

Layton needs to sit down with May

Spencer Anderson

A word to the wise for NDP leader Jack Layton: stop dismissing, ignoring and trivializing the Green party. You do so at risk to your political future, and your party's electoral success.

I admire the deft skill with which Layton has turned the fortunes of the NDP around. He took the party from 19 seats in 2004 to 30 seats in 2008, and also helped the party win a much-coveted and all important Quebec seat. With their increased representation in parliament, the party was able to influence a corporate Liberal budget.

Layton has had to fight factions of his party each step of the way in order to modernize and steer his party to more middle-of-the-road policies and positions. He has worked tirelessly to showcase his party as a moderate, centre-left alternative to the Liberals.

Now, however, Layton is faced with a new reality with which he is coping poorly: the surge of the Green Party. In the recent byelections, the Greens made huge progress in all four ridings, increasing their popular support at the expense of the New Democrats. Green leader Elizabeth May was thrilled. Layton wouldn't talk to reporters.

He seems determined to stay the course, either out of angry stubbornness or confidence that the NDP message will win out over the Green message at the end of the day. The NDP has a bigger election war chest and more campaign infrastructure, but the reality is that the NDP war chest did not help the party in the byelections.

The achingly obvious fact is that outspending the Greens won't make them go away. The Greens have sometimes polled very high in the past, but when an election came around, their support always crumbled. But the byelections have shown that the people who are saying they will vote Green are actually doing it.

Layton knows that when a Canadian political party splits its vote with another party, the electoral result is disastrous because seats are not allocated proportionately. It's a problem that Stephen Harper addressed when he negotiated the merger between the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservative party. Had he not done so, there would not be a national Conservative Party able to form government.

If Layton doesn't start talking to the Greens and coming to an agreement, his party's 30 seat advantage will evaporate into obscurity in the next election. If the Greens win a single seat in the next election, or simply maintain their popular support, it will come at the expense of the NDP. I sympathize with Layton's frustrations. He is a man who has worked his entire life on the climate change issue, and leads a party with an excellent environment platform. It must be excruciating to see his support eaten away by another third party.

But my sympathy ends there. Layton needs to take action and form a coalition with the Green Party in order to increase both parties' presence in the House of Commons. He has in Elizabeth May an ally on the environment file, and a democrat willing to listen.

LETTERS

I don't have a problem

I smoke weed. There, I said it. Add me to the ever-growing list of Canadians. I don't smoke to escape my problems, or for medicinal purposes. I don't smoke to become a better musician or artist. I don't go to weekly 4:20 meetings, and I don't read High Times magazine. I am not lethargic or unmotivated, I wake up at the same time every weekday and make a list of all the things I need to do that day, and then I do them. I could certainly be doing better in school, but it isn't because I smoke.

I don't think marijuana is the cure for every disease on the planet, nor do I even care if it is legalized. What I do care about is discrimination. We, the people who smoke weed, are just people. We choose to smoke instead of drink, we enjoy being outside: playing Frisbee, long-boarding, or walking through the vale. Yup, we sure are a dangerous bunch!

Give me one solid reason why smoking marijuana should be so taboo and I promise I will quit cold turkey — which will be easy, because it's not addictive either.

- Adam Grisack, UVic student

Election? Paid? Ha!

I totally disagree with George Robinson's point about the UVSS executives getting paid during campaigns and elections (Additional electoral reforms needed, March 27). Does he actually believe that Stephen Harper does not get paid during an election? Or that the federal government ceases to function? Perhaps Robinson should go take some more political science courses before seeking to apply a non-existing standard to the UVSS. With regard to the allegations of advantage to the incumbents in relation to the David Suzuki and Gwynne Dyer events, it's normal to have someone welcome guest speakers and it was part of Caitlin Meggs' duty. The speakers were visiting many campuses and the timing of the events was due to availability and had nothing to do with the UVSS election.

Last but not least, I join Robinson in thanking the electoral officials for running a clean and fair election.

- Vishal Ahuja, UVic student

Spoof issue sucked

I just wanted to say that I thought this year's spoof was really quite terrible. The spoofs in the last years' issue were definitely not great, but at least they were spoofs, and were tolerable. This spoof issue was not a spoof and was not funny. The cover said it was a tabloid but only two articles had anything to do with tabloids. And with the exception of the article about Angelina Jolie, I didn't laugh once. Better luck next year.

- Lisa Dell, UVic student

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Engaged?
Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
The Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community. Letters must be submitted by e-mail, include your real name and affiliation to UVic, and have "Letter to the editor" in the subject line. Letters must be under 200 words and may be edited.

UVSS should expand SUB bans to others

Teachers, doctors, politicians should be prevented from entering

Amber Dujay

I find myself in the last few weeks of my undergraduate degree, and rather than writing the dozens of papers I should be writing, I am thinking back on my years and what I have done.

I have decided to make a final contribution to help out next year's student body and UVSS: a list of all the groups that we should ban from our campus to make it a better, more socially accepting place for everyone.

First, the military. You have already heard the arguments, so there is no sense in me repeating them. But I think it is important to take a stance against the Canadian government as they are essentially the ones who determine our position on, and our occupation of, Afghanistan. They are in charge of determining all military endeavours as well as the severity of our taxes, cuts to university funding and many other policy decisions that are detrimental to people across Canada.

So no to the Conservatives, the Liberals, the NDP (because if they ever do get in power, they will still have to make these decisions and ultimately are going to piss someone off) and every other political group because we don't want to influence students in any way.

Anyone who is trying to recruit you for a government job must be taken out as well because they might have some impact on our system of governance. Obviously, we will have to remove all the pre-groups to, such as the Young Liberals and Young Conservatives, as they are a fertile recruiting ground.

Next, I fear the medical field must go. Hospitals are one of the most dangerous places on the planet; think of how many thousands of people die in them each year and yet we are encouraging our children to one day endorse a part of these institutions. You hear all the time about doctors and nurses being guilty of crimes and malpractice, so we definitely do not want to encourage UVic students to enter these fields or to enter the health world at all. Not all doctors and nurses are bad, but students are not informed enough to make these decisions for themselves, so we must make them for them.

Finally, we need to get rid of one of the most dangerous professions on this Earth, one that holds way to much unchecked power in our world: teachers, and anyone professing to teach. Students for Literacy, Big Brothers and Sisters; all these programs are detrimental to our youth; they are promoting specific ideologies enforced by the government teaching structure. What could be more dangerous to the world than the power to learn and the power to educate, to control what is being fed to the minds of the world's youth? As an educator, you can control the minds of a generation and feed them the information that you wish them to have. This is incredibly dangerous to our society and we need to stop our students from holding this power. We should discourage all educational events and groups on this campus.

Groups, ideas and people are inherently dangerous. They are the ones who produce the wars, the genocides, the hate and everything else wrong with the world. Perhaps it would be best to ban those from campus, then we can make sure that no one at UVic is exposed to any idea that might offend them or make them uncomfortable. Because ultimately, that is what we are searching for, right?

Paths diverge in summer

Lynda Pupo

School's out for summer. School's out forever. School's out for — the weekend?

There is no doubt that the end of term is bizarre for student life. Many friends find themselves parting. When class ends for the winter break there is a basic understanding among school chums: go home or stay, rest or party, and see you in January.

But April is different. What happens to us now?

Summer vacation is an obvious option. It could be travelling, working low-paying jobs, or going home to lounge in a now unfamiliar bedroom (possibly repainted and smelling of air freshener).

But when the vacation is over, not all students bother to return. Some summer jobs don't build enough pocket change to pay increasing tuition fees. Some vacation spots turn into exotic homes. Some unfamiliar old bedrooms start to get that lovable student stink again.

Another trend at this time of year is the pod of tadpoles ready to pop out legs and leave familiar grounds. Yes, the graduating students that do the university proud. The students lucky enough to not need one or two more classes get special treatment with parties, a way of saying, "Good job for finishing in April like you should."

The stragglers are in dangerous territory. With only a few classes left some students think, "Almost done, better run." The pressures of coming back to class after their peers have moved on leaves empty PADRE reports on advisers' desks. That all-too familiar phrase "I've taken it all except a few electives" tricks students into thinking that future employers will see it the same way, so what could have been degrees drift into the back files and get lost.

Finally, we have the oh-so-lucky students who only have a few days after their April exams to rest before marching back onto campus for May courses. Maybe the students only need a credit or two, maybe they hate the beach and would rather sweat in the Cornett building, or maybe they are afraid to let go of the somewhat predictable student life that the fall and spring terms provided. They are experiencing the fast-paced turnover of personal achievement that only a one month course can give.

The end of April holds many options — you may walk with all of your friends, or you may walk alone. It's a time when the university releases us into the stratosphere. Do we have the mind to make the right decision to stay or leave, to come back, or disappear forever? The call is yours right now.

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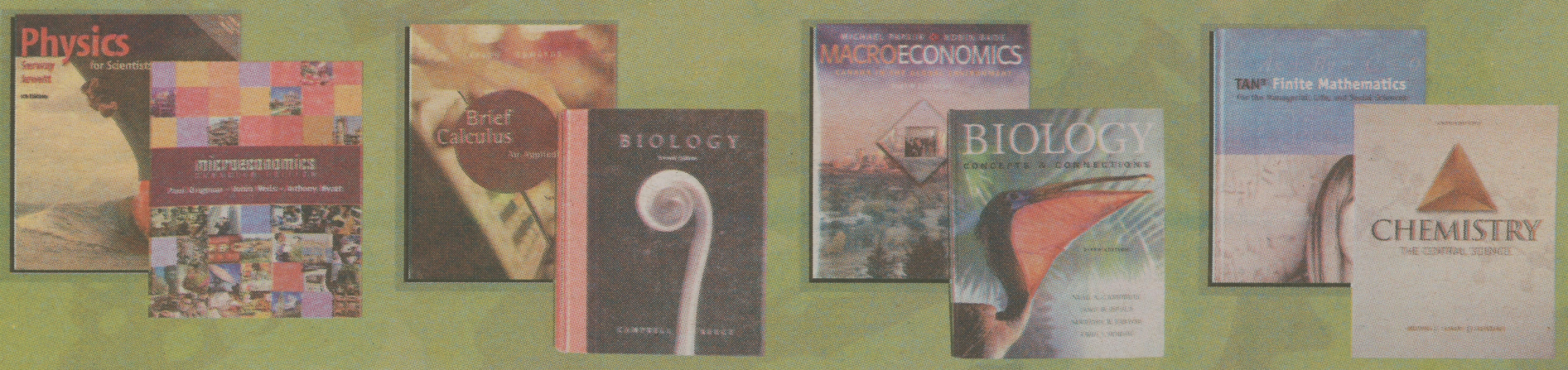
SUB text



Qur'an article was wrong

Tarek Rustom

Under the majority of circumstances, I usually disregard ignorance of this magnitude (Violence at root of Qur'an, March 6). However, I have been urged by my atheist friends to respond to Derek Madson's ignorant diatribe about Islam with the hope of shedding light on a religion many know little about.

I am a practicing Muslim. Every quote Madson used is taken completely out of context. The poor journalistic techniques that Madson employs are disgraceful. I will point to examples of tolerance in the Qur'an.

Madson finds a quote that says Christians and Jews should not be taken as friends, yet the prophet Muhammad was married to a Jew and a Christian. All Muslims are permitted to marry Jews and Christians.

Madson also found quotes that place women beneath men and promote gender inequality. My mother is a surgeon, as are two of her sisters. If gender inequality was such a crucial foundation in Islam, as Madson would have us believe, why do all three women speak four languages and work at hospitals?

The real problem lies in the fact that Islam is an extremely misunderstood religion and its followers are suffering hate and prejudice worldwide.

Madson's ignorance affects more than just him since his opinion is printed in a newspaper. There is such a thing as social responsibility; there are people out there who may be influenced by his article.

The irony is that the only hate speech going on is by Madson, whose ignorance has found its way onto a campus newspaper read by thousands. Islam-haters don't need help.

The Islam that I grew up with taught me to treat all people equally, give to the poor and love my family and my friends. If I can be called a good person today, it is because of Islam.

MELODRAMATIC MUSINGS

Catching worms is probably worth it

Will Johnson

I woke up at 5 a.m. the other day.

The world is a bizarre and serene place that early in the morning. Riding my scooter to work, I only saw one car. Its headlights were lonely beacons in the quiet Oak Bay mist. Everything seemed a little more mystical, like I travelled to a future where the noisy human beings are extinct and the planet has finally been allowed some peace.

The swimming pool where I lifeguard, however, is an entirely different matter. Barricaded behind glass doors, a crowd of early bird swimmers anxiously wait, checking their watches regularly and watching as the half-asleep lifeguards slowly set up the pool. If you're a minute late, you'll have an angry mob of super-seniors on your hands.

By six o'clock there's an endless thrashing storm of length swimmers beating their way back and forth in the pool. Men are chatting in the hot tub, women chatter happily as they practise their aerobics, people gossip and laugh and work out and happily yell "g'morning" to each other.

It got me wondering whether they're the ones who've got it all figured out, and whether all us slacking students could learn a lesson from them.

I've been trying to swim laps lately because I'm hoping to get in better shape for the summer. It would be nice to wake up at six every morning and swim a kilometre or two before I go to class. Twenty minutes in the steam room, a long shower — how much more attentive would I be after that? How much more prepared to face the day?

But sleep seems impossible to avoid when your alarm goes off and you know all you have to do is hit snooze. All my motivation seems to evaporate in a foggy vapour between midnight and 5 a.m. It sucks.

This summer, I saw the Ironman Triathlon in Penticton. Three thousand people participated, charging into the lake before breakfast and finally finishing their run around dinnertime. The last stragglers were rounded up around midnight. Their faces were soggy and gray, their muscles purple from exertion. It looked kind of sick.

People have climbed Mount Everest. They can contort their bodies into gravity-defying yoga moves or run across Canada with a mechanical leg. The Guinness Book of World Records is full of people doing strange and impossible things, like hanging themselves by their skin or diving off cliffs hundreds of feet high. The human body is a willing vehicle for all kinds of extreme torture — if the person is really convinced it's worth it.

By six o'clock there's an endless thrashing storm of length swimmers beating their way back and forth in the pool.

Sometimes it's hard to convince yourself that a chiseled abdomen or a slightly more defined chin is worth all the pain and exhaustion of working out or the sacrifice of denying yourself that second bowl of ice cream. Who really needs big biceps or well-defined legs?

But then summer rolls around and people are playing Frisbee in the quad outside the UVic library and heading to the beach in giddy droves to tan their perfectly formed bodies. Everyone looks best in August and worst in February. In the end, we're really just animals, and we're hopelessly at mercy of the weather. Now that it's almost April, though, I think I'm going to start taking more early bird shifts.

www.martlet.ca

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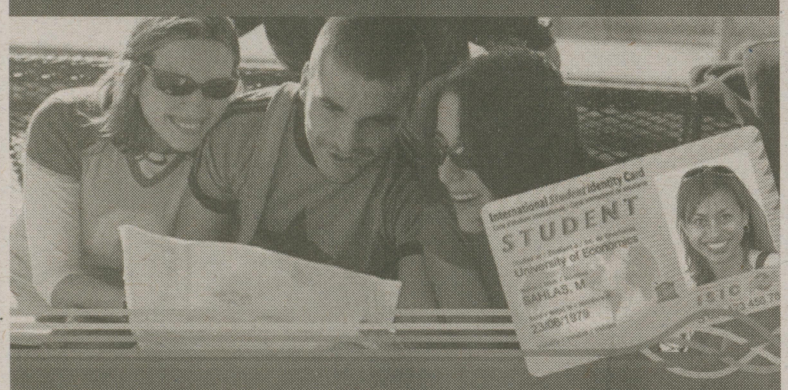

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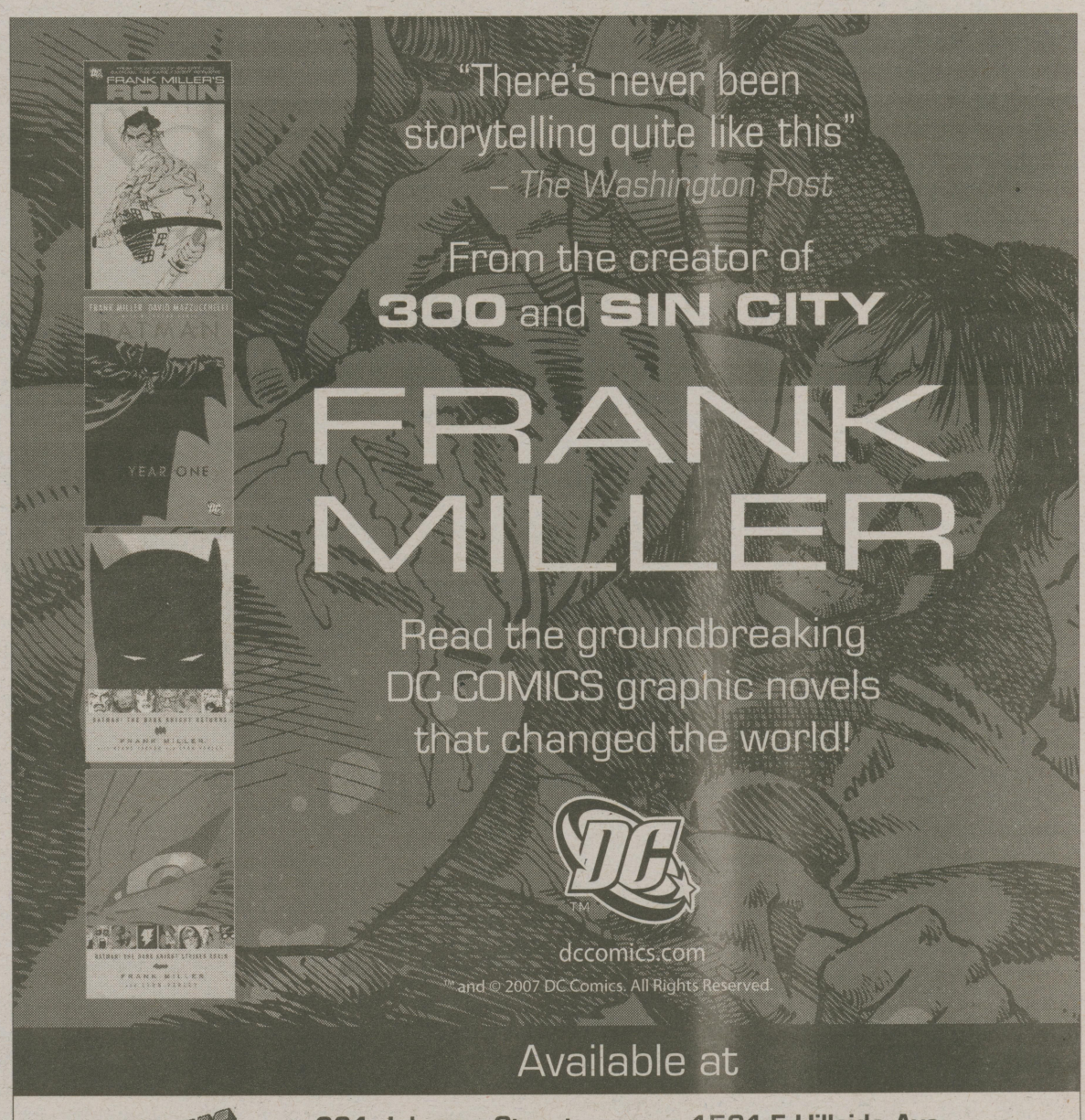
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Reconciling

One UVic student's journey to live life o

by Spencer Anderson
Illustrations by Marc Junker

Chris sits down on the sofa. She clasps her hands together, then unclasps them, reaches over for the porcelain mug of coffee, and takes a sip. She is wearing a grey V-neck shirt and blue jeans. As she talks, her head bobs slightly, shaking the crop of blond hair that descends slightly below her jawline.

Chris, who didn't want to provide her last name, studies biochemistry and microbiology at UVic, though her main area of interest is synthetic and systems biology. She ponders the possibility of embarking on a master's degree in that area, at UVic or elsewhere.

She plays piano and enjoys video games (*Super Mario* is one of her favourites, although she enjoys older RPGs and some first-person shooters). She loves to spend time outdoors and is looking forward to riding her new bike this spring. She is 21 years old.

Chris is also transgendered, a self-affirmed male-to-female in transition.

"I pass [as female] about 80 per cent of the time now when I want to," she says, playing with the amulet around her neck. "One or two people will notice. It's something I'm starting to focus less and less on."

Her voice has a silky, somewhat neutral quality to it, and lilts gently when she emphasizes certain words or phrases. She is perhaps slightly taller and broader than most women, with a stronger jaw, but it's easy to see why most people would never even realize she was trans. Chris recalls her identity as having been more complex than her friends from the beginning.

"I always remember my gender being discordant with who I was," she says. "Two-and-a-half years ago, I started to find blogs and websites about going into transition, and what being trans was. From then on, I immersed myself in all the various material on the subject."

With the support of her family and friends, Chris accepted that she was transgendered.

"Most of my friends were girls and actually, when I knew I was transgendered, one of the first people I told was my sister," she says. "She was great. She told me she always wanted a sister. But my parents were very accepting as well.

"I ultimately transitioned to be happy in my own skin," she says. "As a male, it was harder for me to lead a normal social life, and it was very difficult to talk to people."

In her Grade 12 year, Chris took an extended trip to Germany, which she credits as allowing her to start with a clean slate.

"Nobody knew me there, so it was much easier for me to get to know myself and sort out who I was. When I came back, I graduated high school halfway through the year."

✷

All humans are female at some stage in development. Until about six weeks in, all fetuses are considered to be "proto-female," and afterwards a shot of testosterone will create a boy, and estrogen will create a girl. All humans are a cocktail of hormones; even Chuck Norris has some estrogen. The overall idea, though, is that a fetus exposed to testosterone will produce a boy. Simple.

Of course, it isn't that simple. If it was, there would be no trans people.

What is a trans person? There is a mist of confusion surrounding the term, largely because of the public's ignorance of sexuality in general. One of the explanations for trans person goes something like this.

The theory accepted by some experts is that sometimes a shot of testosterone to the fetus will produce a male body with male genitalia, but a brain with a more female structure or chemical component. In this case, the result may be a physical male transgendered person — a person with male sex organs but with a female or non-male perception of self.

One alternative is the social construct theory, which maintains that sex and gender are irrelevant when taken out of the context of everyday social interactions. This is in sharp contrast to the essentialist, or naturalist, theory, which argues that sex (genitalia) are tied permanently to gender. Dr. Carl W. Bushong, an expert in trans issues and psychotherapy, writes that one of the keys to understanding trans people is to understand "brain sex." He regularly contributes to TransGenderedCare.com, and also has his own website, Doctorbushong.com.

"There appears to be a male and female pattern of psychosexual behavior," he writes. "These are modes of behavior — one male, one female which are laid down, like brain gender, in early life and seem to be independent of environment (how, where, and by whom we are raised) and can be independent of both physical gender and brain gender," he wrote on an article on TransGenderedCare.com.

"Gender is 90 per cent brain," says Chris.

The experts seem to agree. Gender dysphoria is the term generally used to describe the conflict between gender and physical sex — the feeling that an individual doesn't belong in their body and that they are better suited to another gender identity. While many people who experience gender dysphoria live with their sex and do not undergo any lifestyle or physical changes, many choose to become transsexuals. The process for alleviating the gender discord with the physical genitalia can be a complex, lengthy and costly process not be taken lightly. Patients have to adhere to provincial regulations on when they can have sex **reassignment surgery.**

Transgendered vs. transexual

While they're sometimes used interchangeably by mistake, the words "trans person" and "transsexual" have different meanings. A transgendered person (or trans person) is simply someone who identifies as such. A transsexual, however, is a trans person who takes steps to physically change their sex, such as hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery.

ggender and sex

lifeoutside the box — even if it's built by society

I didn't want to be different. I longed to be everything grownups wanted, so they would love me. I followed all their rules, tried my best to please. But there was something about me that made them knit their eyebrows and frown. No one ever offered a name for what was wrong with me. That's what made me afraid it was really bad. I only came to recognize its melody through this constant refrain: "Is that a boy or a girl?"

- Leslie Feinberg in *Stone Butch Blues*

In B.C., two years of "life experience" (living the role of the gender you choose to adopt) is a prerequisite to surgery. Before surgery, however, there is a series of hormone treatments, which can come as a shock to any patient. Chris is taking doses of estrogen and progesterone, among other hormones, which allowed her to grow breasts, but have also sapped her of some of her strength, virility and fertility she possessed before hormone treatment, due to the loss of testosterone. She has also had to cope with mood swings, and what she calls "going through puberty all over again." Going through puberty is tough enough the first time, but for transsexuals, it is made harder by the fact that a successful transition to another sex also requires the individual to adopt the mannerisms, speech and behaviours of the gender they are adopting.

There are a range of services available for people needing help: speech therapy, voice training, grooming and clothing advice and behavioral expert advice are a few examples.

Websites for trans people say that among the best places to undergo transition is the workplace, although it can present its own challenges. Transsexual.org recommends that subjects find a steady, liberal employer that will allow the transition from male-to-female or female-to-male to go uninterrupted and not allow persecution of any kind to occur. But the website notes that such persecution may be unavoidable, and those in transition should (not to put it too colloquially) suck it up.

The final, irreversible stage of transition is surgery, and even pro-trans groups say it shouldn't be taken lightly. Many trans people have never, and will never, undergo sex reassignment surgery. Chris says surgery isn't on the agenda for her. "I like what I see when I look into the mirror," she says. Generally satisfied with how she is treated, Chris mentions only one or two occasions where someone in line for a cup of coffee has "booed" her. She does not, however, dismiss what she sees as real discrimination and violence against trans people.

"Fifteen trans people were killed in North America within this last year, all of the killings motivated by hate," she says. "But there are opportunities to better inform people. A lot of this stuff happens because people are uninformed."

For many trans people, Chris is no doubt a shining example of a successful transition: she is happy, does well in school and has big dreams. She is just getting used to navigating the turbulent world of dating, but doesn't lose sleep over such trifles. She has, after all, adopted an identity for herself.

"But I can't open pickle jars anymore," she laughs.

What's covered?

Covered: Removal of breast tissue, removal of ovaries and uterus, removal of vagina, breast implants (if no growth of breasts after two years of hormone therapy), removal of penis and testicles, creation of vagina, clitoris and labia.

Not covered: Creation of penis and testicles, revision to chest after surgery, transportation and accommodation costs outside of hospital, facial feminization surgery or tracheal shave, surgery to raise voice pitch.

- VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Mario is super once again

Super Mario Galaxy
Wii
Nintendo

David McClelland
THE FULCRUM

NICOLAAS SMITH PHOTO

The plumber flies from Super to Wii with new game.

(CUP) — There aren't many people who get excited by a visit from a plumber. But if that plumber happens to be an overweight, moustached Italian wearing denim overalls and a red baseball cap, it's entirely different.

Nintendo's *Super Mario* franchise is one of the oldest and most valuable video game properties in the world. It's safe to assume that whenever Nintendo releases a new console, a new Mario isn't far behind. *Super Mario Galaxy* is the debut of the series on the Wii. As a follow-up to the oft-maligned *Super Mario Sunshine* on the GameCube, *Mario Galaxy* is a triumphant return to form.

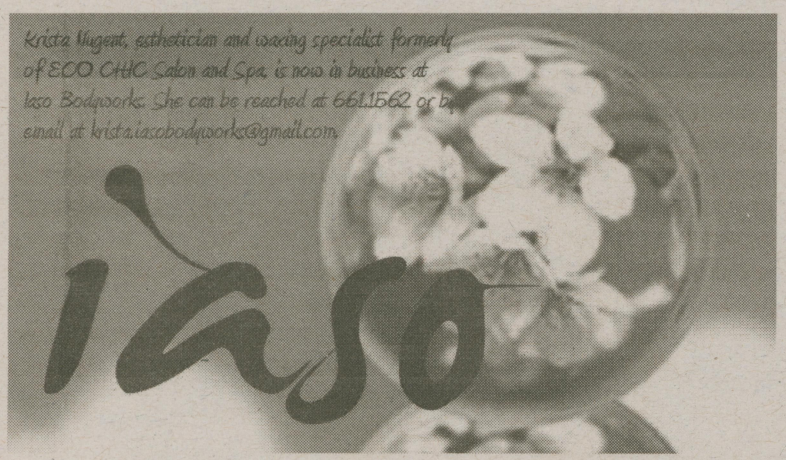
The game begins as one would expect it to: all is well in the Mushroom Kingdom, until Bowser decides to kidnap Princess Peach, setting in motion Diabolical Plan No. 173. As Mario, you're naturally tasked with rescuing Peach. This time, however, there's a bit of a twist — Bowser has taken Peach into space. This means the sometimes-stale worlds seen in platforming games are turned on their ear, as Nintendo's designers played with gravity and space flight.

While a traditional 3-D Mario world might involve running and jumping through a large and mostly flat plane, *Mario Galaxy* has you flying through "galaxies," which consist of numerous small planets based around a central theme. Möbius-strip pathways, levels that build themselves under your feet and planets made of water are just the beginning. As you play, you find yourself constantly having to reorient yourself as you watch "up" and "down" change on a regular basis, which makes the game more than a little disorienting.

The sheer variety of galaxies available for exploration is overwhelming. There are snow galaxies, toy galaxies and galaxies where Mario can turn into a bee. These are all mixed with tons of smaller galaxies that are usually based on completing a maze or jumping puzzle, which means it's easy to spend hours mesmerized by what the game has to offer.

The visuals in *Mario Galaxy* look spectacular, and the sound complements the graphics well, with catchy music and great effects adding to the game's overall feel of brightness.

Overall, *Mario Galaxy* is one of the best games to released this year. It's a joy to run and jump around, flying from planet to planet. There's a reason Mario has managed to endure such a transient industry, and if this game is any indicator, it will continue to do so long into the future.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ON THE TV

Cartoon obscene yet humourous

Lynda Pupo

PROVIDED PHOTO

Eight-year-old character Riley Freeman narrates *The Boondocks*.

If cartoons are supposed to capture innocence, *The Boondocks* defies its role. This popular series sinks in overhyped stereotypes that push on the disappointing side — at least until a smart joke unexpectedly pops up that makes you laugh enough for an entire episode.

The Boondocks television show, created by Aaron McGruder, is based on the award-winning comic strip with the same name. The comic surpassed the standards set by Calvin and Hobbs and For Better or For Worse, and is currently printing in over 300 newspapers.

> Despite its crudeness, *The Boondocks* is surprisingly addictive.

The characters easily crossed over from page to TV set. The two main characters are kids, Huey and Riley Freeman. Huey is a 10-year-old opinionated boy who dwells in revolutionary thinking. Riley, eight, acts as the misfit interested only in guns and gangs. The boys take turns narrating episodes that cover serious topics of racial identity, but in an often crude manner. Their guardian is Granddad. He lives in a world where he no longer understands the rules of play, and despite his best actions he's run by the boys.

The show delves into stereotypes on all sides. It mocks how divided the United States currently is. It uses the "N" word freely, calls white people stupid and invites laughter at racial hate crimes.

But McGruder isn't just creating a shocker of a show that pulls as many taboos as possible. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in Afro-American Studies from the University of Maryland. It's a bit easier to watch two characters express their opinions with such intensity and ridiculousness when you know that the creator focused heavily on social and cultural analysis.

The Boondocks brings in pop culture and familiar voices such as Snoop Dogg, Busta Rhymes, Cedric the Entertainer, Adam West and Samuel L. Jackson. The cartoon is animated like the old superhero comics with layering techniques, defined lines and even random fight scenes (think flying kicks and knock out punches).

Despite its crudeness, the series becomes surprisingly addictive. It is funny at times, visually artful and well thought out.

But there is a strong caution not to let children watch this cartoon, along with anyone easily offended by cursing, racism, inappropriate sexual behaviour, celebrity bashing, United States government bashing, religion bashing, self-hate, Granddad doing aerobics naked, homophobic humour and violence.

Otherwise, enjoy.

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31st, 2008

1. VARIOUS
   Aaargh! Annual Volume 3 (Aaargh!) +
2. LADYHAWK
   Shots (Jagjaguwar) *
3. CADENCE WEAPON
   Afterparty Babies (Upperclass) *
4. CAT POWER
   Jukebox (Matador)
5. CRYSTAL CASTLES
   Crystal Castles (Last Gang) *
6. THEE SILVER MT. ZION MEMORIAL ORCHESTRA AND TRA-LA-LA BAND
   13 Blues For Thirteen Moons (Constellation)*
7. OOKPIKK
   Total Home Job (Independent) +
8. SAM SHALABI
   Eid (Alien8) *
9. HUNGRY HILL
   Ride (CARIBOU)*
10. PAINT IT BLACK
    New Lexicon (Jade Tree)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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ON CAMPUS

Grads leave artistic legacy

June Halliday

Métis leader Louis Riel once said, "My people will sleep for 100 years. When they awake, it will be the artists who give them back their spirit."

When the 2008 graduating class committee called for proposals for this year's Grad Legacy Project, it was an opportunity to leave an artistic legacy.

Inspired by the diversity of UVic Aboriginal artists, I put forth a proposal to purchase indigenous student artwork for the forthcoming First Peoples House, which is expected to be completed by April 2009. On Feb. 3 at the grad luncheon, the committee announced the acceptance of my proposal.

Planning for the house started in 1997 and construction begins this month. Since starting my studies at UVic in 2004, I have been very excited about the First Peoples House — what it represents and the possibilities it creates. The goal of the house is to "create an environment and space on the UVic campus that is welcoming and supportive of Aboriginal students — that respects their beliefs and values."

As a Métis person of mixed heritage (Ojibway, Scottish, French, Ukrainian, Irish, Canadian), I am interested in bridging the divides between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. This project seemed like a good way to accomplish that. UVic is a special school on special Coast Salish lands and has a unique sense of community. The 2008 graduating class includes many indigenous students.

The graduating class committee formed an artwork selection committee, which I sat on with history in art professor Kerry Mason and Martin Segger, director of the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery. We sent out a call for expressions of interest to indigenous students on campus and received some excellent proposals. We relied on architectural drawings of the First Peoples House to discern spaces available to display indigenous student artwork. The chosen pieces will likely hang in the public entry hall so everyone can see and enjoy them.

Future Site of First Peoples House
Construction Start Date: April 2008
Target Completion Date: July 2009
Architect: Alfred Waugh Architect

JUNE HALLIDAY PHOTO

New art will fill the halls of the forthcoming First Peoples House

The four indigenous student artists chosen by the committee — Troy Hunter (Ktunaxa/Kutenai), Cara-Lyn Morgan (Métis), Marianne Nicolson (Kwakwaka'wakw), and Estrella Whetung (Ojibwe) — represent the diversity of indigenous students on campus and reflect the goal of the First Peoples House to include all nations.

We are finalizing which artworks will be chosen, but a consensus will be reached in April before the graduates of 2008 scatter into their futures. The artwork will be housed by the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, who have generously donated any costs associated with framing, until construction of the First Peoples House is completed.

The graduating class also made donations to a number of local charities as part of the Legacy Project. Community and art — legacies we can all be proud of.

NGO provides disaster shelters

Faye Jones

Imagine you wake up in your village, your city or wherever you call home and find your house gone. Your life as you knew it is lost.

If you are lucky, your government or a charitable organization will bring food and water, but without your home, you'll have to sleep in the dirt like an animal.

These people can find hope in the work of Shelterbox. As the name implies, Shelterbox is an organization that ships boxes containing durable, 10-person tents to shelter the victims of natural disasters and conflicts. Depending on the need, the boxes may also contain blankets, a multi-fuel stove, cooking utensils, water containers, purification tablets, a basic tool kit and even a small activities pack for children.

The biggest priority of Shelterbox is to get what is needed where it's needed as soon as possible.

"While we whither and dither, people die," said Tom Henderson, creator and chief executive officer of Shelterbox.

It is this motto that prompted Shelterbox to move outside of its country of origin, Great Britain, and set up franchises in Australia, Canada and the United States. They also have factories and warehouses around the world to ensure that boxes are ready to go as soon as disaster strikes. When cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh, Shelterbox sent 230 boxes from Dubai in only 24 hours.

After hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Shelterbox shipped 1,320 boxes containing tents and blankets, and in many cases were the first to reach victims of the disaster.

Shelterbox offers dignity in disaster.

The boxes weigh 70 kilograms, cost $12,000 each and there is no food inside. The only thing the boxes offer, Ohlgren said, is "shelter, comfort, dignity and survival."

Since its inception in 2000, Shelterbox has sent out almost 30,000 boxes, providing assistance for almost 500,000 disaster victims. Perhaps the most inspired part of Shelterbox is its funding. Though it is a part of the Rotary Organization, it rejects traditional, interest-gathering funding from the club, opting only for methods that allow access to funds as soon as disasters strike. This means it is in constant need of donations.

To find out how you can help, visit Shelterbox.ca.

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WHAT'S IN YOUR MOUTH?

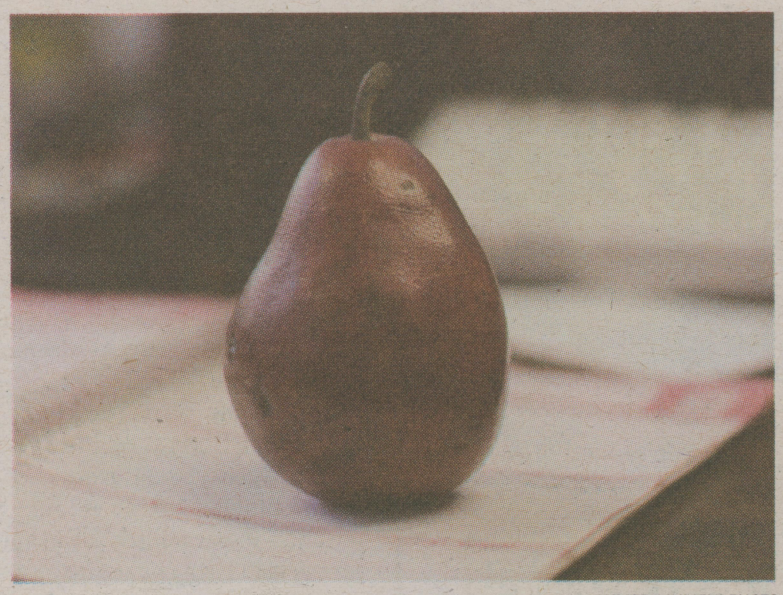
Pears pair well with spring

Jessica Salloum

Half of the commercial Canadian crop of Bartlett pears and all Anjou pears are produced in British Columbia.

Pears are high in fibre and antioxidants, which increase as the fruit ripens. To ripen these fragrant beauties, store them in a paper bag or near a banana. Once they're ready for eating, they can be stored in the refrigerator for a few days.

Pears go great in salad, but don't stop there. They can also lend a delightful flavour to squash soup, pork roasts, or even omelettes. Their juicy sweetness pairs wonderfully with sharp and salty flavours such as Parmesan, salty meats and blue cheese.



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Pear is a pomaceous fruit produced by a tree of genus Pyrus.

Pear Crisp

125 ml (1/2 cup) flour
75 ml (1/3 cup) oats
75 ml (1/3 cup) brown sugar
2 ml (1/2 tsp) cinnamon
50 ml (1/4 cup) cold butter
pinch of salt
4-5 ripe pears, cut into thick slices
30 ml (2 tbsp) granulated sugar
15 ml (1 tbsp) flour
butter to grease dish

Preheat oven to 175 C (350 F) degrees. Lightly grease one-quart baking dish. Mix together the flour, oats, sugar, cinnamon and salt. Cut in cold butter until evenly distributed.

Toss pear slices with sugar and flour in the baking dish and sprinkle the butter mixture evenly on top. Bake until pears are tender and topping is golden brown and crisp (about 30 to 40 minutes). Serve warm with vanilla ice cream if desired. Apples can be substituted for variation.

Green Salad with Pears

30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
10 ml (2 tsp) balsamic vinegar
5 ml (1 tsp) honey or sugar
500 ml (2 cups) salad greens
1 pear, cored and thinly sliced lengthwise
60 ml (1/4 cup) walnuts, broken into little pieces
60 ml (1/4 cup) blue cheese, crumbled
2-3 strips bacon, cooked and cut into small pieces (optional)

Whisk together oil, vinegar and honey or sugar. Toss with greens and pear slices. Top with nuts, cheese and bacon if desired. Serves two.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Hugh Stollmeyer's *Musical Trio*.

Caribbean summer

Jessica Coburn

Want to redecorate your walls for the summer? A new Victoria-based business is turning heads in the international art community.

Fine Island Arts is a dynamic Trinidadian-rooted company focused on publishing, marketing and distributing art representing the Caribbean island culture. Allan Lingwood, a young entrepreneur and UVic M.B.A. student, is the driving force behind the company. He is passionate about bringing Caribbean history to our island.

"My objective for Fine Island Arts is to distribute and supply high-quality art reproductions in the form of limited edition and open edition art prints," said Lingwood.

Fine Island Arts' current featured collection highlights the work of one of Trinidad's most famous artists, Hugh Stollmeyer (1912-1982). Stollmeyer's paintings offer vibrant colours and idyllic imagery. His art has been described as an inspiration for energy and vitality, bringing the sunshine of the islands to every viewer.

Lingwood has also structured his business to give back to the Caribbean community. A portion of all sales of the current collection will be donated toward strengthening the arts and cultures of developing countries within the Caribbean. In order to support his mission, Lingwood hopes other artists will be eager to jump on board and increase the selection.

"I hope to [forge] contracts with other artists to depict the richness of Caribbean culture by encouraging and assisting the growth of new artists," said Lingwood.

For more information, visit www.fineislandarts.com.

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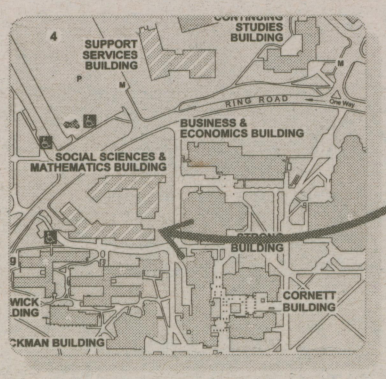

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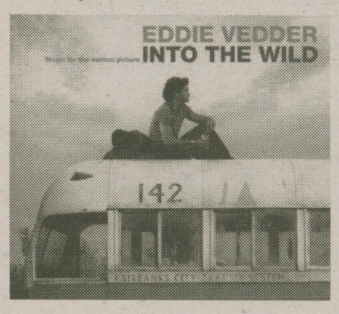

Eddie Vedder
Into the Wild
J RECORDS

Eddie Vedder's 2007 *Into the Wild* soundtrack is one wild ride.

Rhythms of the Roma people and bluegrass flavours collide in songs wandering from dark and hypnotic, to earthy and jubilant. The songs explore the mental and physical journeys of a young man trying desperately to escape the constraints of upper middle-class America.

Vedder's voice is soothing, melancholy and powerful at times, but always evocative. The occasional vibrato note adds to a sense of joy and loneliness. With most songs barely two-and-a-half minutes, it's easy to feel the music rushing past.

Many of Vedder's numbers combine bluegrass chord strumming with picked melodies. In the film, the young man's journey takes him from college and wealth in the East to the harsh heat and "Hard Sun" of the Southwest. While he falls in love, the deep, gong-like drumbeat of a traditional Native American folksong adds relentless buoyancy.

The film and the album turn dark once again near the end. Jarring organ chords open "The Wolf," straying from an otherwise continuous guitar presence. The vocals, when they eventually pipe up, evoke Inuit throat singing. The song subtly shifts between two moods — menacing and triumphant.

The lyrics of "Guaranteed," the final track of the album, are as bittersweet as freedom itself: "Wind in my hair, I feel part of everywhere. Underneath my being is a road that disappears." It finishes on the same hopeful note it began with, but without closure, almost mid-musical phrase. These final words fit perfectly with the end of the film.

- Charlotte Barrow

Goldfrapp
Seventh Tree
MUTE RECORDS

Goldfrapp's new album, *Seventh Tree*, is pleasant. Alison Goldfrapp, Will Gregory and their many contributing musicians made an album that feels like home on a first listen.

Still, the album isn't perfect. In the first song, the tone of voice moves from waves gently caressing a shore to the same noise that jumps from the speaker when an amateur sings too loudly into the mic. But the album improves by song two.

The sound of the band, especially Golfrapp's voice, can be compared easily to Gwen on the old No Doubt albums. The songs are written by Goldfrapp and Gregory, who cared enough to use real strings, multiple guitars and a true choir.

The music, which cracked the top-10 ITunes downloads in the United States, is worthy of our Canadian ears. Purchasing the real deal over the digital has a bonus. The booklet opens to a small poster with the song lyrics on one side and a photo on the other of — well, just buy the CD and find out; it's quite pleasant.

- Lynda Pupo

The B-52s
Funplex
ASTRALWERKS

I heard about this album a few days ago and peed my pants a little. One of the most influential and interesting bands from the '70s and '80s were about to release their first studio album of in 15 years .

The music for the album is intricate and well designed. *Funplex* could easily be broadcast from P.A. systems in smoky bars and nightclubs, and it wouldn't be out of place for DJs from mod and dance nights to spin the more infectious tracks to a mass of sweaty indie kids. Keith Strickland's arrangements are technical and his prowess on such a variety of instruments is inspiring.

Funplex has a timeless air that one wouldn't expect of a band of 50-year-olds, but there are reminders that their endless summer is fading. Some vocals seem to appear from behind an anti-depressant haze and the lyrical content is mostly shallow and ineffectual.

The B-52s have proven that they aren't afraid of kitsch — I was just hoping that they were ready to prove a little more.

At best, *Funplex* is a catchy, infectious work but at its worst it's a self-indulgent reminder that we all grow up. There is no endless summer.

- Jodie Thomson

ASK MISS MARTLET

Just tell them that you're 'saving the world'

Danielle Pope

Dear Miss Martlet:

How do you deal with all the annoying questions about "what's next" after university when you don't know?

- Annoyed

Dear Annoyed:

When it comes to tackling interrogations from your relatives, friends, parent's friends and practical strangers at the next social event, things can start to feel stickier than your first-year dorm carpet.

But instead of throwing up your hands and grabbing the mic to make a public announcement that you still don't know what you're going to be when you grow up, it's a fine time to schmooze. One of most clever ways to do it is with the elixir of a little avoidance, and a lot of redirecting.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

RealSimple.com has a few suggestions for curbing nosy questions. Asked your age? "Old enough to know better." Asked why are you're all dressed up — a job interview? "Isn't every day a job interview?"

When facing those inevitable post-university questions, humour can link into the same tactic. Question: "So, what will you do now?" Answer: "Oh, you know, the usual — saving the world." If it's enough to make them laugh, use that opportunity to curb the conversation: "I heard you and Frank are renovating your house; how's it coming?"

Remember that people enjoy talking about themselves (it's part of the reason why they're giving you the opportunity to do so now). And by staying sensitive to what's happening in other people's lives, you'll not only have your avoidance tactic gift-wrapped in the bag, you'll come off as a charming individual any parent would be proud to call their grad.

If your spot of humour is dashed with further questioning, adopt a look of seriousness and answer honestly: "After four years of being tied down, I'm going to let the wind blow me around a bit." They'll likely nod, smile and throw you a pat of congratulations on the shoulder. But if they don't, if they press further still, respond only with a smile and say, "I'll let you know as soon as I find out." Then use that moment to rush off and refill your drink.

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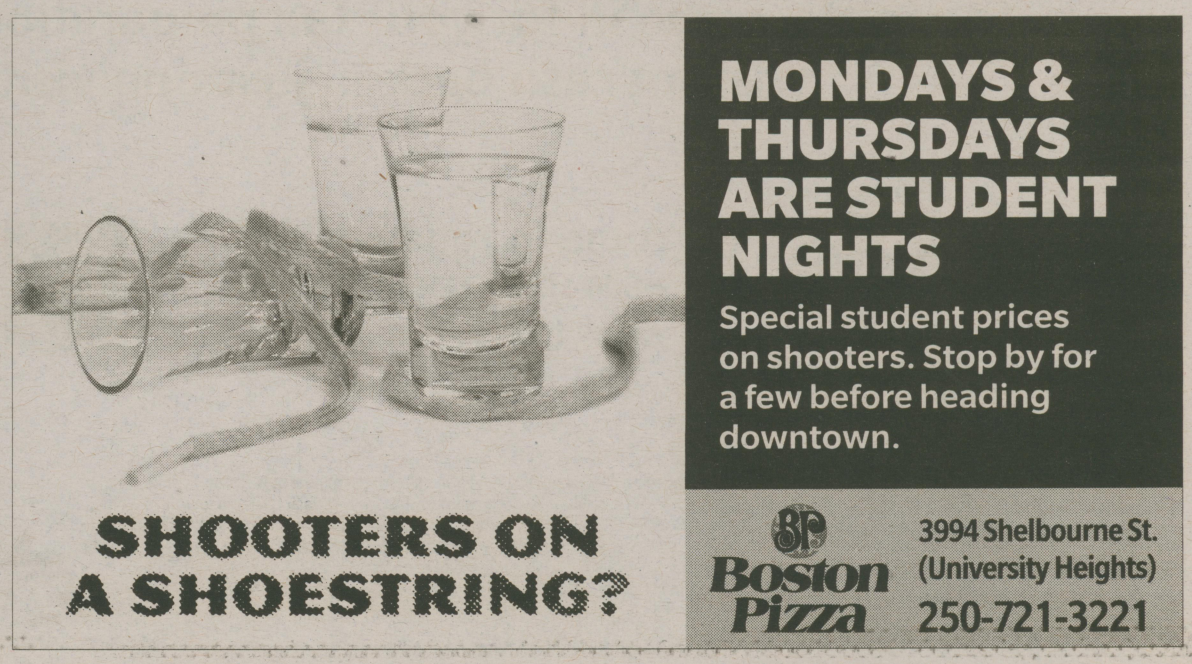
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Small-town band rocks out their dreams

Trisha Gieni

Small-town bands are always striving for their shot at a big record deal. So how does a piano-based rock band such as The Midway State from Collingwood, Ont. go from playing for family and friends to opening for Mika, Daughtry, Lifehouse, and Evanescence? With a whole lot of drive.

Most bands never make it beyond playing in their local scene. The Midways State is an exception, gaining momentum as they get set to release their full-length debut album this summer.

Lead singer and pianist Nathan Ferraro, 21, is the driving force behind the now Toronto-based band, and has a lot to say about their current goals.

When asked what separates them from other small bands hoping to rise above obscurity, Ferraro emphasized their refusal to limit themselves to a local scene.

"We are really honest with ourselves and have never tried to fit into small band scenes," he said. "We have always hoped to be one of the biggest bands in the world."

Instead of developing a local following, Ferraro said the band spends all their time on songwriting and making things sound how they "imagine they could" rather than on trying to fit into certain styles.

Ferraro is joined by long-time friend Daenen Bramberger and the later additions, Michael Wise and Mike Kirsh.

Although Ferraro writes all of the music, each band member actively decides on the arrangements, making each song a collaboration.

Being the eldest in a musically inclined family of eight children, Ferraro learned to play the piano at a tender young age. He switched to the guitar for a short time under the instruction of his mother before rediscovering the piano later on.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Toronto-based band The Midway State gained popularity even before releasing their first full album.

"I stopped playing piano because it was so uncool and I hated it," Ferraro said.

Little did he know that the dominance of the piano in his songs would be what would get the attention of future fans.

Ferraro has been writing music since he was 14. His first song, he laughs, was about stars.

"It was very vague and it didn't really make much sense," he said

Since then, he has written countless tunes, eventually forming the sound that became.

The Midway State. Ferraro said that it's a huge compliment when they are compared to successful groups such as Coldplay, but emphasized that he wants to sound unique.

"I am very aware that I take influences from other people," said Ferraro, "but originality is much more of a priority."

The Midway State recently signed with Interscope records for distribution in the United States and worldwide.

They're signed with Remedy in Canada and Polydor in the U.K. The future looks promising.

Right now, The Midway State's music is only available on two EPs with five songs between the two of them — a problem for music-thirsty fans.

Having just pushed back the release date for their full-length album until later this summer, fans can only listen to the same songs on repeat for so long.

Ferraro stressed that they won't put out anything that they don't think is their best work and would rather wait and be truly happy with the record.

He said they hope the buzz from their last tour will still be heard when they finally release the CD.

www.martlet.ca

Check our webpage for updates while we take a break for exams.

Students bang out African beats

What: Viva Africa!
Where: Victoria Event Center
When: April 5 @ 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $22.50 ($24.50 at the door)

Danielle Pope

An African musical extravaganza will be taking place April 5 featuring local and international stars.

The Guinea All-Stars, the Victoria Percussion Orchestra and the UVic African Drumming Ensemblle (from the Music 208 class in African hand drumming) will perform.

The event is a benefit for Fana Soro, an internationally acclaimed percussionist who is recovering from a Dec. 20 emergency neck surgery on two herniated discs.

Jordan Hanson, the instructor of the African hand drumming class at UVic, expects the concert to sell out. "It's really a big celebration," Hanson said. "Come out, bring your friends and have a good time."

For more information, visit www.1415broad.ca

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Writing alum lands $6,000

Will Johnson

When Shelagh Plunkett found out she had won $6,000 in the CBC Literary Awards contest, she thought, "Great, now I can get some dental work done."

Plunkett, who recently moved to Montreal with her partner, has been writing "in some form or another" since she graduated from UVic in 1995.

She's written for the government, for non-profit organizations and for UNICEF. She has been published in the Globe and Mail, the Vancouver Sun and Geist, but this award is her biggest success yet.

"It's really a door-opener," she said. "From now on, it'll be right on the top of all my query letters."

Her short non-fiction piece "In a Garden" was published in Air Canada's enRoute magazine as a result of winning the award. It is a personal piece about her affair with a garbage collector in Guyana, while she was a 13-year-old schoolgirl.

"The country was going through growing pains and so was I," said Plunkett. "All women have a phase where they have this realization about their sexual power. That's what I try to capture with this story."

As a child, Plunkett moved constantly. Her father was a civil engineer, and though she was miserable and resentful at the time, now she's thankful.

"I'm so fortunate my parents decided to go outside their comfort zones," she said. "I made it hellish for them, but in the end it made me look at my culture differently. You can't look at your world the same way afterwards."

> "Great, now I can get some dental work done."
>
> *– Writer Shelagh Plunkett after winning $6,000*

Though she moves constantly and has family and friends scattered across the globe, Plunkett seems to always end up on the coast. She has lived in Victoria, Vancouver and Saltspring Island.

"I love the ocean," she said. "I'm sure I'll be back sooner or later."

She highly recommends that aspiring writers travel to expand their horizons and gain new perspectives. She also encourages a "strong curiosity about the world, about yourself, about why we do the things we do."

But most importantly, she recommends reading.

"Read indiscriminately — anything you can get your hands on," she said.

Other cultures handle story-telling differently, and Plunkett said reading works by foreign authors has helped open her up as an artist. She recently read a book that had a glove as a narrator.

"Somehow it worked," she said.

Since winning the award, Plunkett has had new opportunities open up for her. She recently received an assignment for Canadian magazine The Walrus, and is currently working on a book-length collection of tightly linked short stories.

She has applied for the Banff Literary Journalism program and plans to continue exploring the creative non-fiction genre.

But the award almost didn't happen.

"I submitted my story to two other competitions before CBC," she said. "One, I wasn't even short-listed. Then I received an honorable mention from The Malahat Review."

Plunkett ended up winning more money with the CBC Literary Awards than she would have in the other competitions, and she is intensely relieved.

"I really dodged a bullet there," she said, laughing.

Public panel to discuss gender

Women's studies student brings together his male role models

What: Nacho Average Macho
Where: Cornerstone Café
When: April 17 @ 7 p.m.
How much: Free

Sam VanSchie

Ask women's studies student Steve Parr and he'll tell you it's hard to find positive male role models. But he's found a few and he's bringing them together for an interactive public discussion on men's issues this month.

Parr will be facilitating the event, in which three men will sit on a panel discussing topics on men's issues recommended by people as they come through the door. Recommended topics will be drawn out of a hat randomly.

Local men confirmed on the panel at press time were trans activist Hayden-Kori Doty, and the author of *Becoming the Kind Father: A Son's Journey*, Calvin Sandborn.

"The goal is to foster mind- and heart-expanding dialogue in the lives of men today," said Parr, who graduates from UVic this month.

"I've spent three years studying gender relations for my degree," he said. "I think we have a great thirst to talk about gender, but there is rarely an opportunity."

Everybody in the room will be important to the event, with plenty of opportunity for the audience to join in the discussion. The venue seats 50, and Parr hopes to see it packed.

Parr is a part of several private men's discussion circles, but thinks it's important to bring the topic of men's lives into the public sphere. He believes there is a shortage of opportunities for men to talk about the issues that affect them.

"Women are socialized to get together to discuss issues more," said Parr. "When men get together, it's to do things."

While women are welcome at the event, Parr thinks it will attract a lot of curious men ready to take the risk to talk about things outside their social norm.

Topics may include fathers, sons, relationships or anything else people bring with them.

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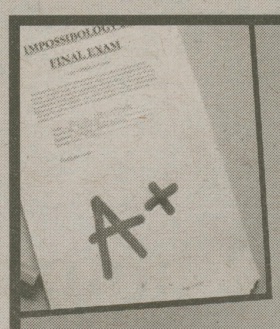

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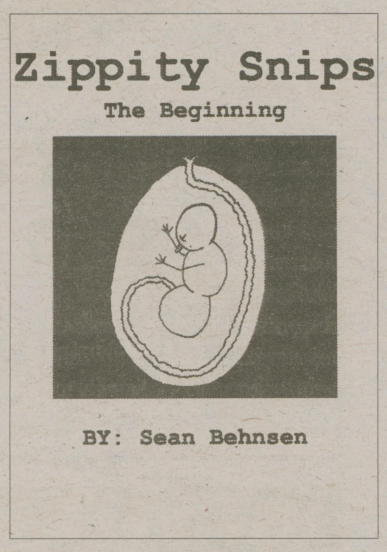
BOOK REVIEW

Comic a fun twist of insight

Sean Behnsen
Zippity Snips: The Beginning
Self-published
50 pages

Lindsay Pope

A comic book might not be your first idea of a deep read, but for a little insight with a few snowmen to cool off that summer twist, Sean Behnsen's pocket-sized comic book *Zippity Snips: The Beginning* is just what the season calls for.



Most of Behnsen's one-square comics make clever plays on some of the most common sayings in our language. In one graphic, two Cheeses have the dialogue: "Ugh! What stinks?" "Oh! I accidentally cut myself today." But Behnsen's humour doesn't stop with puns. The honest insight the author has into the "life" of the inanimate is clever and witty, often with a sharp draw on humour of realizing the obvious.

Behnsen's comics focus on snowmen (who are mostly endearing but plagued with trying to live a life made out of snow) or stick figures (who appear to be somewhat tormented and on a mission to get everyone else first). The sampling of a few random characters add a delightful touch to the mix. It's especially easy to feel empathy for these fellows, like the tomato who stands in the centre of the fridge while an array of vegetables point nastily at him to go to the other side, and a collection of fruit do the same. As the little tomato stares up at the reader, confused, sad and banished from both groups, it gives an entirely new perspective to the classes we slot people in (even when they are only fruit).

Zippity Snips: The Beginning is a pleasant read with 50 pages of black and white comics, each one offering at least a smile if not a laugh. And while it only took Behnsen two months to finish his self-published pocket-sized book, it carries with it a lifetime worth of ideology.

The book is available at Legends Comics and Books for $15.

Writing student leaves her paper trail

June Halliday

"I feel like a million bucks!" wrote UVic writing student Arleen Paré, a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

In an e-mail, she admitted she may have "hooted" when her contact at NeWest Press called to deliver the good news, adding that her "feet lifted off the ground" and "haven't touched down since."

In addition to her studies, Paré managed to publish *Paper Trail*, a collection of lyric prose poems, last spring and is now one of five finalists for the prize in honour of Dorothy Livesay, a poet with a lifelong concern for women's rights and the identity of the woman artist. Paré won the inaugural Candis Graham Writing Scholarship in February 2007.

"I really wanted *Paper Trail* to have this kind of recognition. It's such an unusual and, for me, meaningful book," she wrote. "This nomination doesn't change the way I see *Paper Trail*, except that it's very gratifying to think that others also find *Paper Trail* sufficiently meaningful — and unusual — to warrant this nomination."

While she hasn't followed the sales figures for the book, she wrote that "certainly this nomination can't be bad for business." Paré did a book reading tour across Canada to launch *Paper Trail* and attended book club meetings.

Paré will complete her degree with a major in poetry this spring, adding to her impressive roster, including graduate degrees in social work and adult education. Before she does anything else, Paré's future plans include completing her second manuscript.

"It's been on the back burner too long," she said.

Before that, Paré has some serious partying to do, which she said will include champagne and chocolate cake.

She will also attend the Lieutenant Governor's B.C. Book Prize Gala in Vancouver on April 26, where the winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and other B.C. Book Prizes will be announced. She'll be rubbing elbows with B.C.'s new lieutenant-governor, Steven Point, and the crème de la crème of B.C. authors, publishers and media.

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI FILE PHOTO
Arleen Paré published her book last spring, which is now up for award.

Her book is based on the cynicism of a government bureaucrat losing her mind as she becomes overwhelmed by pushing paper for hours every day in an unsatisfying job that pays too much to leave.

"I especially hope that people who work in, or who train for, management positions will read *Paper Trail* so they can consider how to live full lives, how to include creativity in their lives, despite the excessive demands of bureaucracies everywhere," she wrote in her e-mail.

Paré's success is a reminder that being a writer is a real and important job. She now leaves a different type of paper trail than in her two decades working in social service bureaucracies in Vancouver — a trail of revisions, edits, publications, reviews and hopefully letters of congratulations.

Paré is one of several writing students and recent graduates getting national recognition for their work completed while studying at UVic.

> Paré's success is a reminder that being a writer is a real and important job.

Arley McNeney's novel *Post* has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize for Best First Book, Marjorie Celona won the 2008 RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers with her short story *Othello* and Kerissa Dickie won the Aboriginal Writing Challenge with her short story *Wild Flowers*.

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NHL playoffs a Canadian thing

Four teams north of the border could be bound for post-season

Nathan Lowther

With the NHL regular season winding down, four of six Canadian teams are still alive. Only the Toronto Maple Leafs and Edmonton Oilers were mathematically eliminated from the playoffs at press time.

Calgary Flames

The Flames enter their final two games in seventh spot in the tough Western Conference. Calgary has been inconsistent all season and is in a low stretch. Their 6-2 loss in Vancouver on March 31 was the Flames' third loss in four games. They could still finish anywhere from fifth to missing the playoffs.

Jarome Iginla, Dion Phaneuf, and Miikka Kiprusoff will need to be dominant for Calgary to advance far in the post-season. They've recently had playoff success but they are on their third coach in three years and sometimes lack identity. Calgary will need to out-muscle their opponent, which seems unlikely against the heavyweights at the top of the conference.

Prediction: Flames earn the seventh seed, and then lose to San Jose in five.

Vancouver Canucks

The Canucks have been streaky this season. The March 31 win against Calgary snapped a four-game losing streak where the Canucks looked timid and disinterested. But they faltered again on April 1, blowing a 2-0 lead and allowing four straight goals in a 4-2 loss to division rivals Colorado. The losing streak allowed Nashville (one point ahead, two games left) to tighten the race for the final playoff spot.

Vancouver plays their final two games at home and have had stretches where they've looked great. But they've had longer stretches where they've looked terrible. Which team shows up will determine if Vancouver makes the post-season. If they make the playoffs, it means they played well down the stretch. It also probably means Luongo, whose wife delivered their first child on March 27, has re-found his form.

Prediction: Canucks squeeze in at eighth and upset Detroit in six. Then they get trounced by the Sharks.

Montreal Canadiens

Montreal has been one of the bigger surprises this season. With their hold on the Northeast Division locked up, the Canadiens are aiming for top seed in the conference.

The biggest question regarding the Habs, outside of captain Saku Koivu's broken foot, is how rookie goaltender Carey Price will hold up to playoff pressure. Price has excelled in big games at every level he's played, but in Montreal he's in the shadows of legends Ken Dryden and Patrick Roy. The city is known for eating goaltenders alive — just remember what happened when Jose Theodore, Jocelyn Thibault and Cristobal Huet couldn't handle the job.

Prediction: Montreal is soft and inexperienced, but the conference is wide open. If Price is great, they could win a couple of rounds, but this won't be the year the Habs snap their 13-year Cup drought (the first time the franchise has ever gone more than seven years without a championship).

Ottawa Senators

The Sens are the only team in the East with a legit chance at beating anyone from the West. They currently sit in sixth, but could finish anywhere from fourth to out of the playoffs (although they only need one point in their final two games to clinch a spot). But after making it to the finals last season, the Senators aren't concerned with the regular season. The Cup is their only goal.

They have one of the top forward lines in hockey and a ton of experience. But their goaltending has been flaky much of the season. They will need either Martin Gerber or Ray Emery to make some big saves. If they get that, they have the experience and ability to make a deep run.

Prediction: Ottawa cranks their game up and returns to the Stanley Cup finals, where they lose in six to San Jose.

CASTAWAY WANDERERS DISCARD VIKES

ANDREW SMITH PHOTO

The Castaway Wanderers manhandled the Vikes on March 29. Missing their head coach and four regulars to the national team, UVic fell 37-14. See Martlet.ca for a full recap.

COME BACK IN MAY

We're taking a break so we don't flunk our exams, but we'll be back with more papers in May, June, July and August.

Until then, breaking news will be posted on our website at www.martlet.ca.

Thanks for reading!

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Diversions

solution, tips and computer programs at www.sudoku.com

su|do|ku
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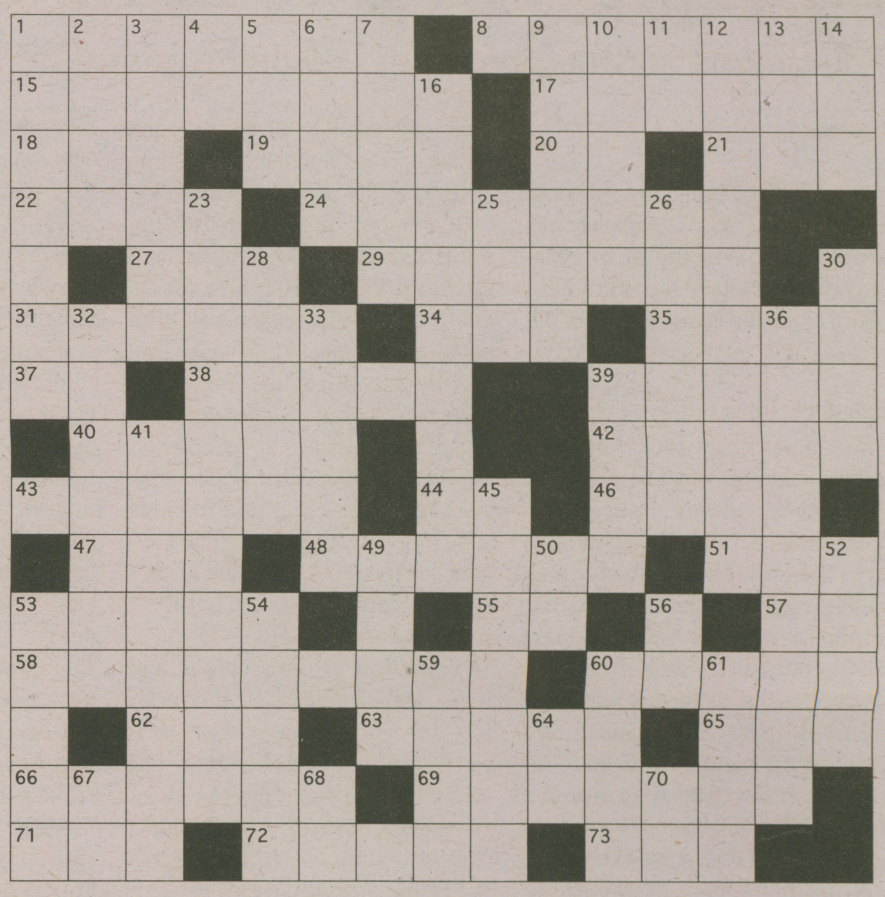
LOOK-ALIKES

Jason Corless, UVic computer science professor

Robb Wells, who plays Ricky on *Trailer Park Boys*

The Martlet Crossword by David Karp



ACROSS

1 Ultimate essential
8 Cokeheads and workaholics
15 Leslie Nielsen hit
17 Santa's transportation
18 Stock release (abbrev.)
19 Catch
20 Stomach muscle
21 Frat house flick from 1994
22 Nevada's other city
24 Al Pacino classic
27 Squid's defence
29 Student expense
31 Cheap Korean car model
34 Put down
35 Cable company
37 Yes
38 Lead on
39 Will Smith hit song
40 *Mr. Bean*'s ___ Atkinson
42 Teen emotion
43 Style of comedy
44 Lab instructor (abbrev.)
46 Be introduced to
47 Preferred individual (abbrev.)
48 Benefit of CFS membership
51 Modern
53 Hard to define
55 Take too many drugs (abbrev.)
57 Reading or B&O (abbrev.)
58 Alanis Morissette hit
60 Type of semiconducter
62 UVic S-Hut tenant (abbrev.)
63 Asian antelope
65 First name of hockey players Boyle and Cloutier
66 Cracker type
69 Russia (formerly)
71 Montreal airport code
72 Specialty
73 Jerry's feline partner

DOWN

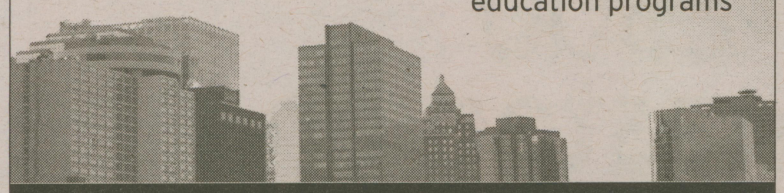
1 Victoria grocery chain
2 Ready to eat
3 Alanis Morissette hit
4 Game Boy Advance edition
5 Popular sandwich
6 Corn cob covering
7 Implement
9 Airy
10 United Arab Emirates city
11 Freudian concept
12 Danish capital
13 Lisa Lopes' band
14 Burnaby university (abbrev.)
16 Shoulder ornament
23 Thornton and Cheechoo (3 words)
25 Long narrow inlet
26 Trigonometry function
28 Bread making procedure
30 Brat
32 '60s vehicle
33 Home of Jewish *Book of the Average Man*
36 Sinful city
39 Daddy's wife
41 Potato chip flavour
45 Prevent rust
49 Bravery
50 Pamela Anderson's cup size?
52 Small songbird
53 Cavernous and mineral-lined
54 Bottled water supplier
56 16th Greek letter
59 Distinct entities
60 Bolt
61 L.A. Lakers power forward
64 Atlanta's state (abbrev.)
67 Russian .com equivalent
68 Third musical tone
70 Take action

www.martlet.ca

For the answers to this week's crossword and sudoku puzzles, visit our website.

Take charge of your career

with our online real estate education programs



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Leading to the Appraisal Institute of Canada's AACI designation, this online program provides business school graduates with an accelerated path to a career in the property valuation profession.

Early Registration Deadlines

Summer Term I:	April 15, 2008
Winter Term I:	July 15, 2008

Registrations and completed admissions applications received by the early registration deadlines are eligible for a **$50 discount**.

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ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Macbeth: A Civil War of the Mind
All Day Event
McPherson Library, Main Floor Gallery

The Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery is pleased to present "Macbeth: a Civil War of the Mind." This exhibit features paintings of Wade Stout and his unique representations of Shakespeare's Macbeth from an artist's viewpoint. Combining classical drama, Tarot, mythology and the culture of the early 17th century with modern symbolism, Stout recreates an accessible Shakespeare that spans layers of meaning and media.
The Gallery is open Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Fee: Free
Info: maltpub@finearts.uvic.ca

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

The Students of Colour Collective Open House
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Student Union Building, B020

All self-identified students of colour, non-students of colour, allies and friends are welcome. So come on down and bring your lunch to have a fun time to get to know one another!

No Foolin'
7:30 - 9 a.m.
UVic Family Center. 2375 Lam Circle. Corner of Lam Circle and Finnerty

UVic students, staff, faculty and FAMILIES are invited to the UVic Family Center for our annual No Foolin' Event! Come and celebrate the wonderful diversity and energy that families and children bring to campus life. There will be music, games, crafts, free breakfast (fruit, ice cream, Hot Dogs and ethnic specialties), goody bags, balloon animals, face painting, and more! EVERYONE is welcome to attend this free event.
Fee: Free
Info: familyc@uvic.ca

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Commuter Cycling Skills Courses
April 5, April 27, May 8, and May 31
Harry Hickman , Building room 116

The four separate courses are each 8 hours in length and include classroom and on-the-road learning. Hosted by Bike to Work Victoria and sponsored by the UVic Bicycle Users' Committee, all courses are free of charge but require registration in advance at http://biketowork.ca/victoria/workshops/skills/register.
These courses are great for introducing new commuters to the rules of the road and for improving the skills of existing cyclists.
Fee: Free
Info: uvic.ca/sustainability

Run for Rural Medicine
10 a.m. - noon
Medical Sciences Building, University of Victoria

The 5km fun run/walk will be raising funds to help offset costs for the students during their upcoming month-long placements in rural communities across the province. As well as getting some exercise and supporting the students, you will have the opportunity to eat some great food, have your blood pressure checked, chat with students, and win some great prizes! Registration is $25 and includes a must-have t-shirt! For more information, and to register, please see www.ubcmed.com/ruralmedrun.
Fee: $25 at registration
Info: langsa@interchange.ubc.ca

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Moral Limit and Possibility in World Politics
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Social Sciences and Math Building, A357

Dr. Richard Price questions at what point can we concede that the realities of world politics require that moral principles be compromised, and how do we know when a real ethical limit has been reached?
Professor Price addresses the limits of moral change on issues as varied as sanctions, humanitarian intervention, torture, self-determination, and immigration.
Fee: Free
Info: sdwatson@uvic.ca

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Moving From Preparation To Action: Tips To Make Physical Activity A Daily Habit
12:10 - 12:50 p.m.
David F. Strong Building, C118

Come and find simple ways to make your plan to be physically active work for you.
Fee: Free
Info: docherty@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Masterminds: Lectures By UVic Retirees
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Harry Hickman Building, 105

It ís not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging with support from the university are presenting five lectures (April to May, 2008).
Please register by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited.
Fee: Free
Info: 250.721.6524 ledgar@uvic.ca

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

The Settlement of Iceland: Landn-mabÛk and its Poetry
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Clearihue, A204

The lecture will start by covering the history of Iceland from its beginnings until the thirteenth century. It will then examine the great settlement-account, Landn-mabÛk, discussing its origins, content and surviving medieval versions. It will close with a consideration of the varied body of poetry contained in Landn-mabÛk.
Presented by the Richard and Margaret Beck Trust and the Department of English.
Fee: Free
Info: 853-7656 pabaer@uvic.ca

MONDAY, APRIL 14

P/Op!
All Day Event
University Centre, B115

For the first time, the Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery presents an exhibit featuring works by local and internationally renowned artists in the pop, optical and abstract art genres.
P/Op! runs Monday, April 14 to Monday, September 22, 2008
Fee: Free
Info: 721-6562

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Come Walk the Labyrinth
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Interfaith Chapel

Find some calm in the midst of a stressful day. Come after a tough exam. Come to re-connect with your divine centre. Come alone or with a friend.
Simple instructions for meditative walking of the labyrinth are posted.
Fee: Free
Info: 721-8338 chaplain@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Masterminds: Lectures By UVic Retirees
7 - 9 p.m.
Harry Hickman Building, 105

It ís not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging with support from the university are presenting five lectures (April to May, 2008).
Please register by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited.
Fee: Free
Info: ledgar@uvic.ca

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Marine Viruses: The greatest diversity on Earth, and drivers of global cycles
2:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Cunningham, 146

A seminar given by Curtis Suttle, Departments of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Botany, and Microbiology and Immunology, UBC.
Bring a mug! There will be refreshments.
Fee: Free
Info: dvarela@uvic.ca

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Masterminds: Lectures By UVic Retirees
7 - 9 p.m.
Harry Hickman Building, 105

It ís not a quiz show, but a chance for you to learn from a lifetime of research, creativity, and involvement by active University of Victoria retirees. The UVic Retirees Association and the Centre on Aging with support from the university are presenting five lectures (April to May, 2008).
Please register by calling 472-4473 and plan to arrive early, because seating will be limited.
Fee: Free
Info: ledgar@uvic.ca

LIVE CONCERTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Mitochondrion, Ritual Demise, griefer @ Evolution
9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

MITOCHONDRION'S 2008 CD RELEASE! With the highly anticipated release of "Archaeaeon" Mitochondrion will play their first local show in almost 10 months. With formidable guests Ritual Demise and Griefer. (No Minors).
Fee: $8 at the door. $6 in advance.

THE RANGZEN SHOW - Tibet Benefit Concert Compassion Guerrilla, Grekko Rozzerio, Marie Perry @ Logan's Pub
10 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.

All proceeds go to the Free Tibet Movement. (No Minors). For tickets, email cfrets@uvic.ca.
Fee: $5

Bettina May, Meghan Mayhem, go-go Amy, Hank Pine & Lily Fawn, Dj Caligari @ Lucky Bar
8 - 10:30 p.m.

An Occasional Man Magazine Release Party. Pick up your copy of Victoria's premier Male Pin-Up Magazine!(No Minors).
Fee: $6

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Archon Legion, mother died today, Tribune @ Logan's Pub
10 p.m. - 1 a.m., doors at 9 p.m.

Clove and Anchor Entertainment and Absolute Underground present: Archon Legion CD release. (No Minors).
Fee: $8

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

The Flatliners, The Rebel Spell, Arbutus Trio, Kilgore Trout @ Sugar
9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Fat Wreck Chord / Stomp recording artists The Flatliners make their LONG awaited debut to Victoria for this Saturday night Ska/Punk spectacular. Joining them are G7 Welcoming Committees The Rebel Spell and localís Arbutus Trio and Kilgore Trout (feat. Ex members of One Drop). (No Minors). Tickets at Lyle's Place, TICKETWEB.CA
Fee: Advance tickets $12

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Jon Menold does the Detour Jon Menold @ Detour Dessert Lounge
7 - 9 p.m., doors at 6 p.m.

Jon Menold plays an acoustic show at the Detour. Come early and get seats he always plays to a full house! (All Ages).
Fee: Free

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Rockin Classics, Funky R & B The Ritchie Mac Band @ Tudor House
9 p.m. - 12:45 a.m., doors at 5 p.m.

Featuring Vic (Fingers) Gnaedinger, Wilf (Wildman) Davies, Dave (Sticks) Masini, and Jenn Lally. (All Ages).
Fee: Free

VOLUNTEERS

Looking for new growth?
Open your heart & volunteer with us.
NEED Crisis and Information Line
Training starts April 19th
Next Information Session
Wednesday April 2nd at 6:30pm
UVic Sub Room B110
Call 386-6328 or see web for details
www.needcrisis.bc.ca

Do you have what it takes be a St. John Ambulance Volunteer? We are now recruiting for the First Aid Brigade and the Therapy Dog program.
Our Volunteer First Aid Brigade is called out to hundreds of events in the Greater Victoria region every year. Our dedicated members come from all walks of life. What makes them unique is their advanced first aid training and community spirit. If you want to find out more about joining this dynamic group of volunteers call Laurie at 388-5505 ext. 106 at St. John Ambulance.
Therapy Dogs: Do you have a cheerful personality and is your dog well mannered? St. John Ambulance is recruiting dogs and their owners for our Therapy Dog volunteer program. To find our more call Laurie at St. John Ambulance at 388-5505 ext. 106.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to assist individuals with disabilities to get out and be active this Spring with Recreation Integration Victoria! By devoting as little as 1 hour a week, you have the opportunity to participate in an activity you enjoy while giving back to your community. To get involved or for more information, please call Shelann at 477-6314, ext. 15.

The Peer Helping Program, run through UVIC Counselling Services, is now recruiting volunteers for September 2008. For more information, please stop in at the Peer Helping Drop-In Centre at SUB B005 or visit http://www.peerhelping.uvic.ca/.

Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association provides a therapeutic riding program to children and adults with disabilities.

If you enjoy horses and people, this would appeal to you.
No experience is necessary, (we provide training), however, volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings and afternoons.
Next riding session begins the first week of April. Please contact us for orientation/training times. For more information please call Sue at 658-6272 or email vrda@shaw.ca.

Get your Wheels In Motion!
A great opportunity to learn about special event planning and fundraising from experienced staff and volunteers; the Victoria Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion committee is looking for additional committee members to help organize this exciting annual event held Sunday June 8th. Thousands of people will attend this fun, family-friendly event that brings people of all ages and abilities together to help build awareness about spinal cord injuries and raise funds for community-based quality of life projects. Contact Shelley to get involved 1-866-609-4335 ext 6334.

CLASSIFIEDS

Kirstin Martin-Aveda Hair Stylist and Waxing Specialist (primarily brazillians) now offering all services discounted from her home in Fernwood. Call 294-0822 to book.

The Old Winery Self Storage
Clean, secure, indoor lockers.
Open 7 days a week.
3952 Quadra Street
Behind the Keg. 727-2311

The Wilderness Committee is now hiring dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join our fundraising team. FT/PT Great Organization and experience! Call Robynne 388-9292 between 2-4 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS WANTED! Send your tree stories and photos to: www.treewatchvictoria.blogspot.com, a site for local arborphiles and gardeners throughout Victoria, Oak Bay, Saanich & beyond
We map, describe, celebrate, paint, photograph, visit and watch over favourite trees. We appreciate their aesthetic, ecological and historical value, and encourage preservation of a healthy tree cover for Greater Victoria.

HEY YOU!

Happy Birthday to the perviest bear on campus. Love you long time!

To submit an event, please e-mail promo@martlet.ca

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Comics

NOOSEHEAD

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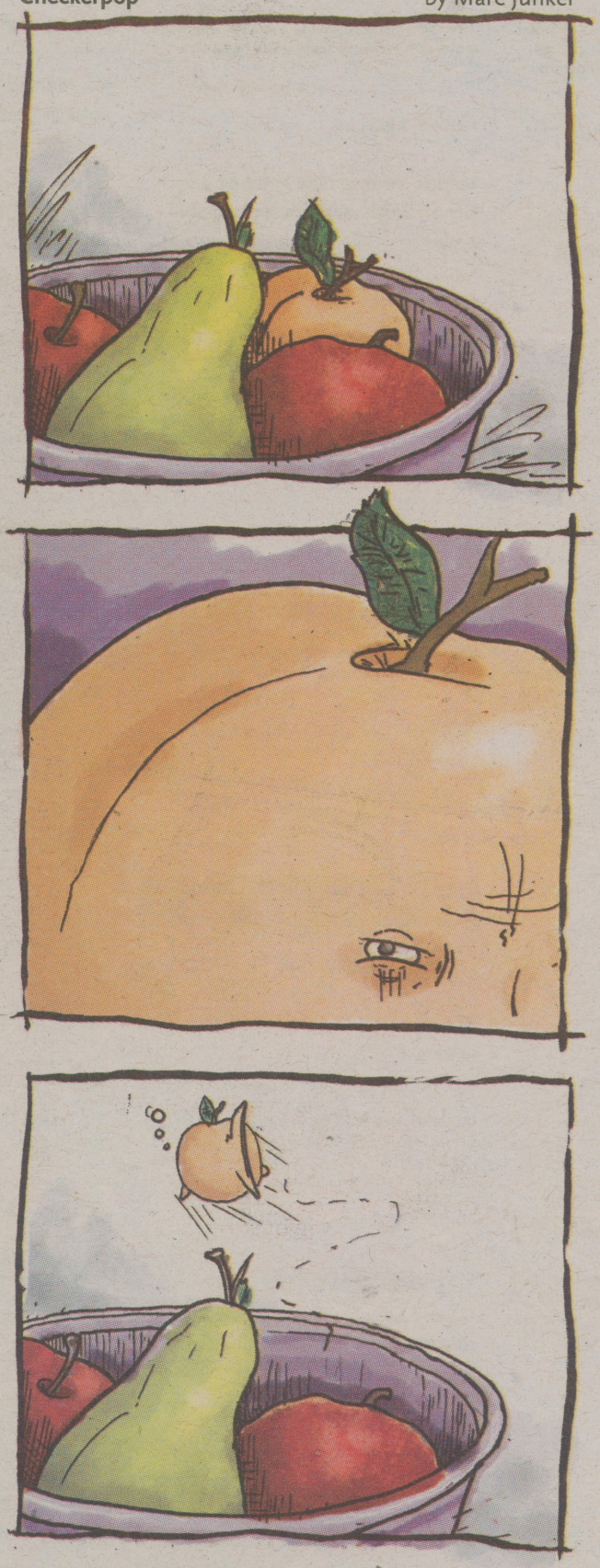
I'VE BUILT MY WHOLE CAREER ON ANGER!
ACTING LIKE A CONCEITED, ARROGANT DICK HAS MADE ME RICH, RESPECTED AND SUCCESSFUL.
BUT IT'S ALSO COST ME PRETTY MUCH EVERY FRIEND I'VE EVER HAD...
...AND EVENTUALLY, SOMEONE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.
NICOLE THOUGHT I WAS SPOILED. SELFISH. SELF-ABSORBED.
SHE SAID I DIDN'T APPRECIATE HOW GOOD I HAD IT. I SHOULD BE MORE GRATEFUL! I SHOULD BE HAPPY!
SO I TRIED TO CHANGE. BUT MY MANAGER HATES THE NEW ME. AND HE SAYS MY FANS WILL HATE IT EVEN MORE THAN HE DOES!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? HOW CAN I KEEP EVERYONE SATISFIED?
YOU CAN'T. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
SCREEEK!
GREAT. THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK, MAN. REALLY MADE A DIFFERENCE.
IT'S THE TRUTH! YOU'LL NEVER LIVE A LIFE THAT SATISFIES EVERYONE.
BUT YOU CAN LIVE ONE THAT SATISFIES YOURSELF.
FORGET WHAT ALL THOSE OTHER PEOPLE WANT. DECIDE WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU WANT TO BE... DON'T RELY ON OTHERS TO DECIDE FOR YOU.
I KNOW THAT! I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF THINKING FOR MYSELF!
I JUST WASN'T...
...HELLO?
CABBIE?
COME BACK HERE AND TELL ME WHAT TO DO!

Checkerpop

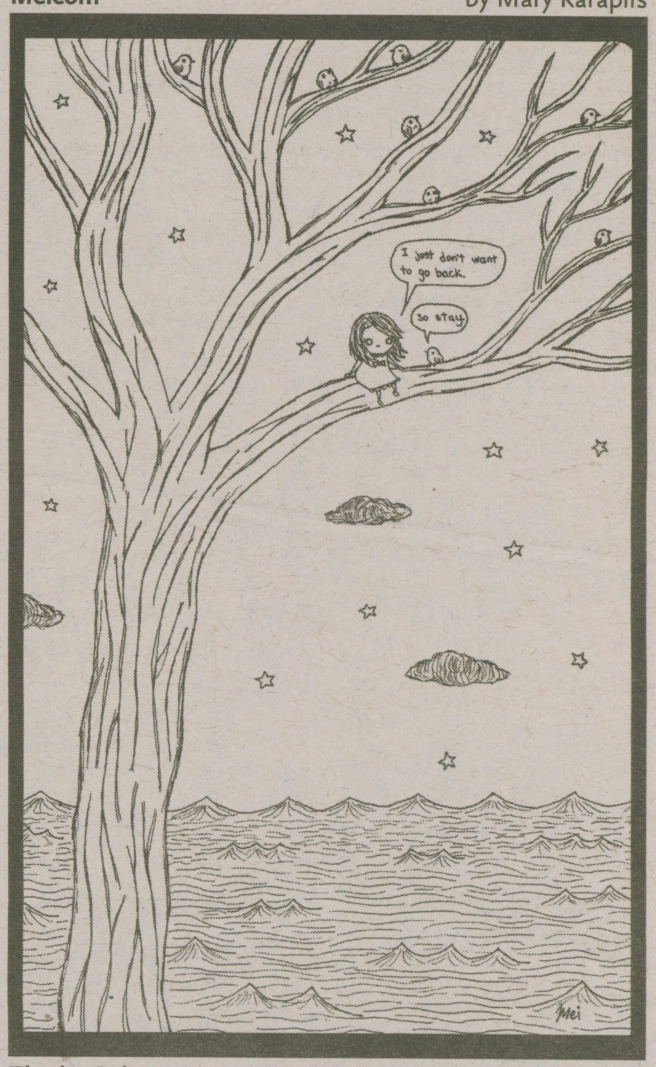
by Marc Junker



THAT'S ALL FOR COMICS!

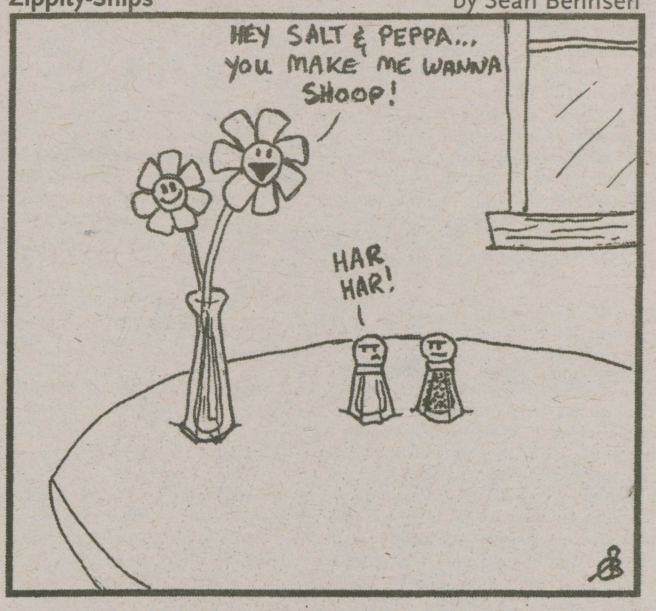
Meicom

by Mary Karaplis



Zippity-Snips

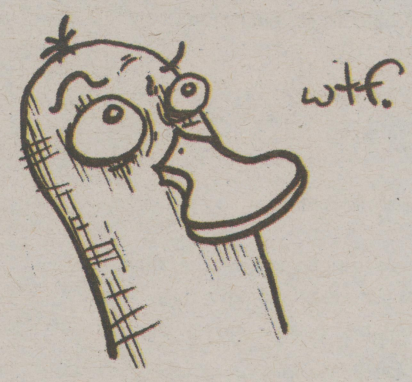
by Sean Behnsen



HALO

We did it! The war is over!
My work here is done.
I never thought this day would come
There's something nagging at me, a mistake I made in that last battle...
Don't worry, lets just return to earth!
EARTH DESTROYED BY MASTER CHIEF
Blown away in climactic battle with aliens
Oh that's right...
Butts.
FIN

wtf.



FELIX AND MIA

by Liz Snell

LIFE OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY
OKAY STACKS, YOUR FIRST JOB IS TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF WITH A SOCIAL GROUP.
I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL IN THE SAME GROUP.
NO—THAT MAKES STEREOTYPING TOO HARD.
YOU LIKE TO READ AND HAVE LONG HAIR—HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING A HIPSTER?
HIPS? MY FIGURE'S STILL PRETTY BOYISH...
THAT'S GOOD—YOU NEED TO FIT INTO THOSE TIGHT JEANS.
WELL OKAY... WHAT ELSE DO I HAVE TO DO?
FIRST, JOIN A BAND. ITS NAME SHOULD BE EITHER LONG AND OBSCURE OR START WITH "THE."
HOW ABOUT, "THE SYMBOLIC SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE WORKS OF MILTON AND SHAKESPEARE?"

CORP EVIL

by Gord Duff

I once decided to start the day early and get up at 5:30am.
I glanced out the window...
I then decided I was not a "morning person" and went back to bed.

Red Rider Comic

by Liam Kiemele